

Government, Prof. Yunus and microcredit



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The recent change in Grameen Bank Ordinance has raised many questions in the mind of conscious citizens. Does the government really want to establish its control over Grameen Bank? We need to wait for some time to get the answer. The motive of the government would be clear in its next move. Everyone will admit that GB is the creation of Prof. Yunus. He struggled a lot for the establishment of GB. The success that Grameen has seen is only because of the charismatic leadership of Prof. Yunus. No one can think better about Grameen Bank than Prof. Yunus. So the government should value the opinion of Prof. Yunus in selecting the next leader for this Nobel winning organisation. Prof. Yunus has become an international icon. Many famous people and organisations are coming forward to materialise his concept of microcredit. Is it not a matter of pride for us? Bangladesh is the home-land of microcredit. Almost one third of the population is involved in microcredit and it would not have been possible without the passive support of Bangladesh government. It would be unfair to deny the contribution of world famous MFI organisations like Grameen Bank, ASHA and BRAC to our rural economic development. These organisations are working in many countries of the world.

We often see some economists criticise microcredit without having any practical experience on rural economy. Did they spend any moment of their life with poor people? They explain everything from their bookish knowledge. There may be some negative sides of microcredit like multiple lending and high interest rates. But we should think positively how to remove the negative impacts of microcredit by keeping these organisations alive, not by destroying them. We hope the government will not destroy our country's image before the world community which we have achieved through microcredit.

Jabun Naher
Dhaka

power failure. Our systems are already overstretched and new loads are constantly being added. So to keep our systems from being overburdened any further, illegal power lines need to be searched out and eliminated and wastage of electricity must be stopped. Air conditioners, washing machines, coffee makers in homes and offices should not be used unless absolutely necessary. We can either take measures now to fix our power sector or just wait for the disaster to strike.

Shahriar Kabir
Dept. of EEE, BUET, Dhaka

The curse of quota system

The aim of the Liberation War was to get an exploitation-free Bangladesh where everybody would get a job based on merit. But it is very shocking that the meritorious students are being deprived and discouraged to contest in the government job due to the quota system. If this system continues, one day the country will become a land of inefficient people. Therefore, I urge the government on behalf of the students to end this discriminatory quota system and give all of us equal opportunity in the job market.

Solaiman Hossain
University of Dhaka

A great writer

Most of the English medium students don't read Bangla novels. I was among them, but when I read Humayun Ahmed's novel 'Himurimand', I started getting interested in Bangla books. Any person could get attached to his books because of his fascinating writing style and easy language. Humayun Ahmed's death has left a scar in our hearts. But he will always be alive in his books and in our hearts.

Ahmed As Sami
Class-7
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Lessons from the blackout in India

The recent blackout in India is one of the worst cases of power grid failure the world has ever seen. The massive power failure left nearly half of India's population without electricity for two days. Although there may be many reasons behind this large scale load shedding, one cannot deny the fact that the electricity consumption through home appliances has risen sharply in recent years. Air conditioners, washing machines, personal computers, laptops, smartphones have become almost necessities instead of luxuries. Power systems are designed to handle a specific amount of load, if the load exceeds the limit, the system is sure to crash.

In Bangladesh we also need to address this risk of a gross

Mass transport drivers must abide by traffic law



It is needless to point out that undernotted bus stops are one of the major contributing factors to the unresolved problem of gridlock. Bus drivers seem to consider any place a potential bus stop wherever they can pull over. Nowadays, bus drivers are pulling over at any place, on any part of the road without taking into account the hindrance in the traffic flow. Moreover, besides creating traffic blockades, the buses leave their passengers no choice but to get off at the middle of the road putting their lives to risk. A recent accident in which a university student was the victim was primarily due to this haphazard offloading of passengers. This is also one of the reasons that people prefer private transport to public transport. Therefore I would sincerely ask the authorities concerned to take necessary steps to relieve the citizens of this peril.

Tahmid Samiul Mowla

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US worried at govt actions on Grameen Bank

Calls for transparency in MD selection process
(August 6, 2012)

Dr Islam

Our government completely failed to understand that GB is an institution of utmost global importance.

Amdem, USA

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton indicated to Sheikh Hasina during her visit to Bangladesh that she (Hillary) would not appreciate any change in the Grameen Bank. She was actually against the government's takeover of the bank. By the proposed change in the bank, the government is challenging the power of the

United States. This is, so to say, a clash of power. While we do not make any comment on the result of the clash, the US may put Bangladesh in many difficult situations which will adversely affect the country.

Diplomatic challenge is not a very thoughtful foreign policy.

Objective Observer

This is our country and this is our government. If one government commits any wrong, another will put it right. But it is not understood as to why US should be involved in our

internal affairs. We have not forgotten that Bangladesh came into being despite bitter opposition from the US government.

Nasim Hasan

Our markets are flooded with fake money; still the government says there is nothing to worry about. We are continuously being insulted by the acts of our so-called politicians, both nationally and internationally. It seems like there is no end of it. People of Bangladesh are paying the price for electing these politicians over and over again.

Shah Asad Ahmed

The drama will result in nothing but heighten the honour of the only Nobel laureate of Bangladesh.

Bangalee

The chairman of Grameen Bank being a government man will necessarily pick up a government man as its managing director. There will never be any transparency in

this case. The intention of the government is to bring Grameen Bank under its complete control.

Translucent

An institution founded by a Nobel laureate and owned by over eight million poor women needs to be protected.

Bonnie Rashid

GB is an institution that reflects our national pride. We the citizens should go to any lengths to protect GB.

Saleh Md. Shahriar

Of course transparency is needed. But in the name of legal step and transparency, a noted institution like Grammen Bank cannot be ruined. Since the bank is a Nobel prize winner, the global community cannot remain silent.

Wahid

USA closed 200 banks in the last three years. Now, why are they worried about a bank in