

# Remove VC, Pro-VC to resolve BUET crisis



BUET is our prized institution. It has secured an honourable place all over the world. It is in turmoil because of its VC and Pro-VC. Students want removal of them for justified reasons and have been demonstrating to achieve their goals for quite some time. But we are surprised by the government's attitude; it seems that those two people are more important than the reputation of the institution and the demand of the students.

From the September 4, 2012 issue of The Daily Star we learned that Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said Pro-VC Prof. Habibur Rahman would be removed. But why only the Pro-VC, why not the VC also? What hold has the VC got over the government that it is reluctant to remove him? BUET teachers' association, students and staff of the university have been staging agitation programmes since mid-July, bringing 16 allegations of corruption against VC Prof. SM Nazrul Islam and Pro-VC Prof M. Habibur Rahman.

On September 3, 2012 a few teachers and students observed "voluntary bloodshed" programme: they poured blood from their bodies into two bottles and poured the blood on the staircases of the administrative building. It shows how desperate they have become to save the institution from destruction.  
**Nur Jahan**  
*Chittagong*

## Expressway to link future Padma bridge

It has been almost a year now that we are hearing about building of the Padma bridge. It will connect Dhaka city with the northern districts of the country. Many so-called intellectuals have also come out with positive views about building the bridge in various talk shows.

The reality is, it takes 3 to 4 hours to reach Bangabandhu Jamuna Bridge from Dhaka for normal public. The ministers reach Jamuna bridge in less than 2 hours because all intersections are kept clear while they travel. The prime minister reaches there from Dhaka in less than one hour. The general public are left to suffer always.

Once Padma bridge is constructed, it may take 5 hours for general public to reach the bridge from Dhaka. It will take similar time to come to Dhaka from the Padma bridge. Without building elevated expressway to connect these bridges, I fail to understand, how general public will benefit from the bridge. Gridlocks in Tongi, Savar and so on will increase further. Has anybody thought of this?

**Aminur Rahman**  
*Karwan Bazar  
Dhaka*

## "No Easy Day"

Above is the name of a book written by a former US Navy SEAL Mark Owen (pen name) which reportedly contains the first person account of the mission that killed Osama bin Laden.

Meanwhile the Pentagon decided to take legal action against the author of the book Matt Bissonnette (pen-name Mark Owen) on the plea that the book had been published in violation of

non-disclosure agreements Bissonnette signed while he was a SEAL. But Bissonnette's lawyer confirmed on Friday that the former SEAL did not disclose any secret.

Question arises why Bissonnette got so much interested to write and release the above mentioned book at a time when the US presidential election campaign is at its peak? The Bin Laden mission is treated as one of the great achievements of the Obama administration.

What I feel is, "No Easy Day" is aimed at making President Obama's race for a second term in the White House "No Easy"! Doubts obviously arise about the clarity of Mark Owen's account of the Laden episode.

In my opinion, former US President George W Bush, owing to his over enthusiasm, had made Osama bin Laden a world issue creating a lot of new problems. It was perhaps during the regime of President Bill Clinton, the United States had played an effective role in resolving certain sensitive international crises. But during Bush regime, the United States got involved in world conflicts putting the world's balance of power and peace at stake. During the last few years, President Barack Obama has considerably recovered the lost image of the United States through his prudent and dynamic policies and governance. Of course Obama has limitations too; he could not accomplish all the goals of his government.

I strongly feel that the Americans should not get confused with the campaigns of Obama's opponent but take their decision judiciously to elect their next president.

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

# Battle for space supremacy

A NASA spacecraft has successfully landed on Mars after a nine-month journey. The total estimated cost of the Mars mission is US\$2.5 billion. After recent large aid cuts from the US government, and the destruction of Challenger and Columbia, NASA is claiming the Mars mission a big success.

A car-size robotic spacecraft Curiosity is able to send pictures from 57.5 million miles from earth: a great opportunity for scientists to uncover facts about the planet.

After the Mars mission's success, the US president wants to expand the US space programme. NASA is planning a manned mission in 2020.

At a time when the world's big economies and the US itself are passing through their worst financial crises, the high cost of the Mars mission is being highly criticized by some quarters.

The reality is that this type of high-cost mission must benefit humanity. Unfortunately, instead of providing some relief from suffering, the big powers are using the space missions for military purposes. The battle for space supremacy is going on among the US, Russia and China. Satellite-guided missiles, spy planes and unmanned drones have become harsh realities.

**Miton Kumar Gupta**  
*Phulbari  
Dinajpur*



**Hall-Mark Scam Nonsense!**  
Muhith ridicules media outcry; experts shocked  
*(September 5, 2012)*

**Zk**  
I am shocked, astonished, and speechless. What a finance minister we have!

**Saiful Alam**  
Really, we are the most unfortunate nation in the world!

**W. Zaman Manik**  
I am simply shocked. It is hard to believe that instead of taking stern actions against the culprits, the finance minister is talking like this.

**Repon**  
It is not a big amount for him but really unimaginable amount for us.

**Mahbubur Rahman Sharif**  
It is clear that the government has gone against the media because the media is exploring

their corruption day after day.

**Naabaj**  
Bangladesh and Nigeria have been competing for the top position in the corruption! I think Bangladesh will win.

**M. K. Alam**  
His remark about the Sonali Bank scam is unfortunate and we are worried about the integrity of the banking sector. We have seen how he handled share market scam and now handling Grameen Bank and Padma bridge issues. His irresponsible remark about WB's integrity may hinder the process of reconsideration of loan for the bridge.

**Deshbashi**  
Finance minister says siphoning off Tk 4000 crore is not an amount to be concerned about. Hall-Mark Managing

## Encourage rice cultivation

We have learnt from a report that Aman was cultivated on 10,84,074 hectares of land in 2011 and on 10,24,068 hectares of land in 2012 in eight districts under Rangpur Agricultural Zone. That means the area of Aman cultivation in this season sees a decrease by 60,006 hectares of land in these districts. And this is because farmers could not make expected profit last year. Moreover, farmers are worried in this season because of high cost of fertilisers, seeds, and other agricultural inputs.

However, this trend will not bring any good for the nation rather it would create food crisis. Farmers incur losses due to the failure of the government, because it could not implement an effective marketing strategy for making paddy cultivation profitable.

The government has planned to export rice to boost prices for growers. At present the average retail price of coarse rice is Tk 25 a kg, while the production cost per kg is said to be Tk 26.50. It may be mentioned that in 1981 the government exported 10,000 tonnes of rice. At present, Bangladesh exports aromatic rice but only at certain times. We have heard that the government also plans for making aromatic rice a regular export product. The government wants to cultivate aromatic rice at such amount that it can be exported all the year round, as its price is higher in the world market.

We thank the government for the plan and urge them to implement it without delay. Otherwise, we fear that next year paddy cultivation would decrease further.

**Mobarak Ali**  
*RK Mission Road*

# Unbelievable!

Here is a picture that "says more than a thousand words"! The photograph of the Bahadurpur Model High School, in Kishoreganj district, published in your pages on August 29th, indeed represents the limits of stupidity and gross ignorance of the authorities concerned, if not anything else! It showed the school surrounded in a sea of water all around, parts of a 'chor' visible in the foreground, and also a few boats on water.

Were the authorities, who were responsible for building it, spending quite a large sum of money, totally unaware of its location, in the middle of a water body?! From the photograph, it appears to have been built fairly recently!

If the people responsible for building this school could be so ignorant, then there is nothing more to say for them. If there is a Bangladesh edition of "Who-is-Who", then these persons should be identified and listed as the most famous ignorant persons of Bangladesh.

**Engr. S.A. Mansoor**  
*Dhaka*



Director says he has 20 times more asset than this. All these seem to be a competition of extreme madness.

**Rabbani Chowdhury**  
People need to understand now who are in the cabinet!

**Suahmed**  
Finance minister perhaps tried to mean that this Tk. 4000 crore scam is not too big considering other scams under AL government.

**Nasim**  
The media is really nonsense. Why don't the media let them do whatever they want?

**Probir Bidhan**  
You should quit Mr minister!

**Md. Maher**  
If tk 4000 crore is not a big amount, then how big it should have been? Liquidity crisis still exists. Finance minister, please have a rethink of what you have said. Your comments are not acceptable.

**Imtiaz**  
The simple truth is that our country is being run by a bunch of dishonest people.

**Iftikhar-ul-Awwal**  
What a childish statement! He

considered the financial fraud of 4,000 crore as if it was an inconsequential paltry theft. And, he thought that the media was making unnecessary noise and bang about the whole affair. He has put us all to shame, and should apologise.

**Sixth Sense**  
Why does the finance minister want to keep the Sonali Bank loan scam under the rag? The media should find the reasons.

**X. Gomes, USA**  
Sounds extremely fishy. Maybe the finance minister is following the ex communications minister's path.

**Sam**  
I think it is a small amount for him because there are much bigger scams with no proof.

**A.K**  
Mr. minister, it seems you're allowing some people to make illegal money and be rich overnight. Your comments will encourage lots of corrupt persons.

**Translucent**  
Both the amount of money and the way it was taken fraudulently are unacceptable. Surely the MD was aware of it, as was the rest of the board of