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Rampant corruption engulfing us



PHOTO: STAR

28,917 BCS examinees now have to wait for another leakage-prone examination. But till then we are to count the cost in the form of time, money and labour. A poor country like ours can not afford this wanton wastage of public money and valuable time. The reason why question leakage has become so rampant and frequent is not far to be found. For long we have been recruiting, appointing and giving promotion on the basis of bribe and political affiliation compromising merit. As a result, corrupt people have firmly entrenched themselves in every sensitive government offices, thereby destroying the atmosphere of their smooth functioning. On the other hand, students, who obtained certificates easily from the mushrooming private universities, are replacing genuine certificate holders. So in the absence of honest and efficient people in different sectors, all kinds of dishonest practice are spreading like wildfire and destroying our prospect for a brighter future.

Abdus Subhan
 On e-mail

ACC chairman's statement unacceptable

From the October 6, 2012 issue of the newspapers, we learned about Azam Khan, the driver of the APS of former Railway Minister Suranjit Sengupta, giving an exclusive interview to RTV, in which he told in detail about the scandal of Taka 74 lakh which a few of the railway staff were taking to Suranjit Sengupta's house.

He said that it was not the first time; they took money to the minister's house many times before. The case was so sensational that everyone knew about it.

As there was no news of Azam Khan we were fearing the worst, so when he appeared on TV we felt relieved. We are proud to have a person like him in our country and hope there are many more like him.

We thought that a proper investigation will take place to unearth the truth. But we were taken aback by what ACC Chairman Ghulam Rahman said on October 7, 2012, and we just could not believe it.

He said the anti-graft body would not re-investigate the scandal involving the former railway minister Suranjit Sengupta based on Azam Khan's statement on TV. We know that the account of an eyewitness is very important. Then how could the ACC chairman could brush aside the statement of driver Azam Khan?

According to reports, there was no proper investigation about the case. The minister's own department conducted it which is unusual and unacceptable. We request Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to ensure protection of Azam Khan's life and give instruction for a thorough investigation into the scandal.

Nur Jahan
 Chittagong

Hassle-free service at passport office!

I was thinking of getting a machine readable passport. But I was afraid that I would have to go through a lot of hassles in the passport office. But to my surprise I found that I could apply online for getting a machine readable passport. There was not any botheration at all or unnecessary waiting at any stage of the process.

After simple verification of the old passport with the application form, the person in charge told me to enter a room where they took my digital photograph and finger prints. Then I got a receipt where the date of collecting the passport was mentioned. What is more surprising, I received an sms on my mobile phone requesting me to collect the passport which is ready for delivery from Agargaon office the day before the date of delivery.

In my opinion in Bangladesh such hassle-free service is unprecedented indeed. All the credit for such arrangements goes to the officers and staff members of our armed forces who are dealing with this work. We wish all our public sectors would function with the same spirit.

Sirajul Islam
 Paribagh
 Dhaka

Educate people about leprosy

People in the rural areas of the country are deeply mired in superstitions and so fall into many unwanted problems. Leprosy patients in rural areas often face discrimination. Rural people still think that leprosy is the result of being cursed by God. Leprosy patients are even thrown out of their homes. This is the result of fear born of superstition. Are we living in the 21st century?

Leprosy is a disease which can be cured if timely treatment is given to the patient. Lack of awareness and education can cause death to the patients. Bangladesh has been successful in reducing the cases of leprosy. But still the superstition exists. Hence awareness has to be raised among people about that leprosy is not a curse, but it can be treated successfully with modern drugs. It is also the duty of the social workers and those working in the health sector to make people understand the disease and its causes. The authorities must initiate a sustained campaign to find out leprosy patients in rural areas so that they can receive treatment.

Miton Kumar Gupto
 Phulbari Technical & BM Institute
 Phulbari
 Dinajpur

Stop felling fruit trees



PHOTO: STAR

People cutting down fruit trees on their courtyards is a very common picture in our locality. Many fruit trees are cut down every day. If it continues, all the fruit trees will disappear from this area soon. But only one decade ago this locality was abounded with many kinds of fruit trees.

The people of this region have to depend on imported fruits now. But this imported fruits are contaminated with poisonous chemicals which is very harmful for the human body. These days people are more interested in planting wood trees rather than fruit trees. People think that wood trees are more profitable than fruit trees. Within ten years of planting, the wood tree becomes mature to be sold. On the other hand, a fruit tree can give fruits within one or two years. Birds, bees and many kinds of insects are the main victims of this unmindful act. As the trees are not there, the birds have also vanished. Even a crow is hardly seen here. And this affects the ecological balance.

I discussed this with some locals and found that they are not aware of the fact. They said, "We are planting more trees for keeping the environment healthy." They don't understand the necessity of fruit trees. So the forest department should take steps to encourage people to plant more and more fruit trees.

Md. Jahirul Islam Jewel
 Lecturer of English
 Rajapur Degree College
 Jhalokathi

Nothing changes but fees rise

Communications Minister Obaidul Quader has been relentlessly active since assuming office. He made surprise visits, slapped and sacked officials, tried to understand the problems and finally came up with the decision that Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) is incorrigible. Corruption is deeply rooted in BRTA and no human soul can do anything about it.

Earlier, as railways minister he gained knowledge through his visits that the services of the railways are not of international standard. He came up with the decision to hike up rail ticket price by fifty percent.

Now as communications minister, he has perceived that corruption in BRTA will continue despite his everyday visit. Now he has come up with the suggestion of increasing the registration fees of both public and private vehicles by 15 and 40 per cent respectively and also of increasing the test fees for all kinds of vehicles by 50 per cent.

For ministers, 3000 crore taka may be a small amount of money but for common people an increase in expense by 10 or 20 taka a day will make eating three meals a day a luxury, after paying the ever increasing electricity bill and meeting other expenses. In that case no popular stunt is going to save anyone on the election day.

Saif
 Dhaka

Classroom crisis at Govt. Titumir College

It is a shame that the Govt. Titumir College, in spite of being one of the reputed colleges with a large number of students under Nation University, has classroom shortage. More than two thousand students are studying in the English Department. The other day I along with my friends of fourth year gathered to attend a class. Surprisingly, there was no vacant classroom. It is sad to say that we have only two classrooms including the seminar room. Many students come from faraway places. They fail to attend classes because of lack of classrooms. So we urge the authorities to take necessary steps to solve the classroom crisis. We are looking forward to getting an immediate solution to the problem.

Md. Masum Chowdhury
 Dept. of English
 Govt. Titumir College

Install banknote testing machines



PHOTO: STAR

Over the last one year many people showed their reluctance to receive the new currency notes, especially the 100, 500 and 1000 taka notes from the banks or from others. They are afraid of getting counterfeit notes. The fear is natural because of the seizure of huge quantity of fake notes by our law enforcing agencies.

We would request the Bangladesh Bank to kindly install a banknote testing machine on its premises and also at some branches of Islami Bank, Agrani Bank and Sonali Bank for use of the members of the public.

We would also like to know from our ministry of home affairs as to what action has been taken against the arrested counterfeiters. We also suggest that bank notes of different sizes and colours of different denominations may be issued by Bangladesh Bank in future.

O. H. Kabir
 Hare Street
 Wari, Dhaka



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Attacks on Buddhists Key 'instigator' detained (October 11, 2012)

Shafiq Ahmad
 Police should take action against Uttam Kumar also for provocation.

Sanjoy Barua Chowdhury
 Good news for all Bengali citizens that the key culprit has been caught. And now let's see how the government handles this young Islamic extremist Muktadir.

Hasan Mamun
 I am still confused about everything.

Msa, UK
 Good news. The key instigator has been detained. But

what about the guy who posted the picture on Facebook? He should also be nabbed and brought to justice.

Nuton
 Please don't torture him, get him a lawyer, we do have court of justice to bring him to book.

K. Morsi
 What a bunch of savages these people are! All civilized countries should ban them.

Anonymous
 "Nazibul Islam, the former officer-in-charge of Ramu Police Station, has already

been closed to Chittagong Deputy Inspector General of Police's office in Ramu after his withdrawal from Ramu over his mysterious inaction in containing the mayhem." Find his political attachments.

Md Shahjahan
 Make an example of investigation and punishment.

Saleh Md. Shahriar
 Don't harass the innocent people, please.

Mridul Mitra
 It is a matter of great sorrow that day by day we are acting like savages. All the culprits who destroyed the Buddhist temples should be given severe punishment. Otherwise, such destructive work will increase in future. The government should take proper steps as soon as possible.

Mujibul Alam Khan
 The Ramu incident indicates that sooner or later commu-

nal violence will become a regular phenomenon in our country. Our politicians shouldn't forget that history will judge them without mercy.

Nasirullah Mridha, USA
 If Muktadir is nabbed for inciting the mob attack on pagodas, why the police chief and OC concerned are out of law's hand? Our law is biased in case of law enforcers.

Reaz Hassan
 What was Muktadir's objective? Was he exhibiting and distributing Facebook images with ulterior motive or was it out of his youthful exuberance? Where is Uttam Kumar Barua? Get him too. I still insist on the appointment of an independent judicial inquiry commission under an Appellate SC judge to inquire into various aspects of that midnight mayhem on the Buddhist shrines and houses. The failure to set up a judicial