

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

A Mango Bar Made of Jackfruit

The ruling party has set a very dark example by holding the farcical January 5 election and then inviting the opposition, the Jatiya Party, to join the government. The situation could not be better described than what the writer has termed as "A Mango Bar Made of Jackfruit." The loser in all this is of course the people of Bangladesh. Our constitutional right to choose a government was denied here. I am seriously disturbed by the way the media is covering the appointment of ministers in the new government. What is the big deal here? Am I missing something? These smiling ministers do not have the people's mandate. Why should we care about who got what portfolio?

Abrar Ahmed
Lalbag, Dhaka

Fixing Unruly Politics and Policies

In his article, the writer has recommended some thoughtful ways to curb corruption in Bangladesh such as giving the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) autonomy and a more responsible role by the media. I would like to mention what the Malaysian government did to tackle corrupt practices by government officials and employees. The anti-corruption authority sent agents to the residences of officials and investigated their wealth and lifestyle. For example, if an official has a three million dollar house, he or she was asked to prove the source of his/her wealth-because it surely did not come from his/her government paycheck. After many such initiatives, the government of Malaysia has been successful in keeping corruption in check.

Mamun Rashid
Azimpur, Dhaka

The stuntmen in politics

On reading about Boris Yeltsin's rude behavior with Mikhail Gorbachev while the latter was the president of the Soviet Union, I remembered a similar incident that took place in Pakistan not too long ago. When Nawaz Sharif, after winning an unprecedented third term as prime minister of Pakistan, was on his way to take oath as prime minister, his convoy was stopped by military commandos to let General Kayani, then army chief, pass. The prime minister was kept waiting for two to three minutes until the general's convoy drove away. Now, theoretically, the army chief is answerable to the defence secretary let alone the prime minister of the country. It was arrogance at its worst. History will prove that it was merely a power stunt that did not command respect from anyone.

Lalarukh Asif
New Jersey, via email

Made in Bangladesh

This is indeed a commendable effort by the Ministry of Women and Children affairs to empower women. Now products made by these rural women need aggressive marketing. And for that they need the help of the government, NGOs and volunteers. I am sure with the right marketing strategy, Joyita has the potential to become another Aarong or similar brands.

Naznin Mary
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