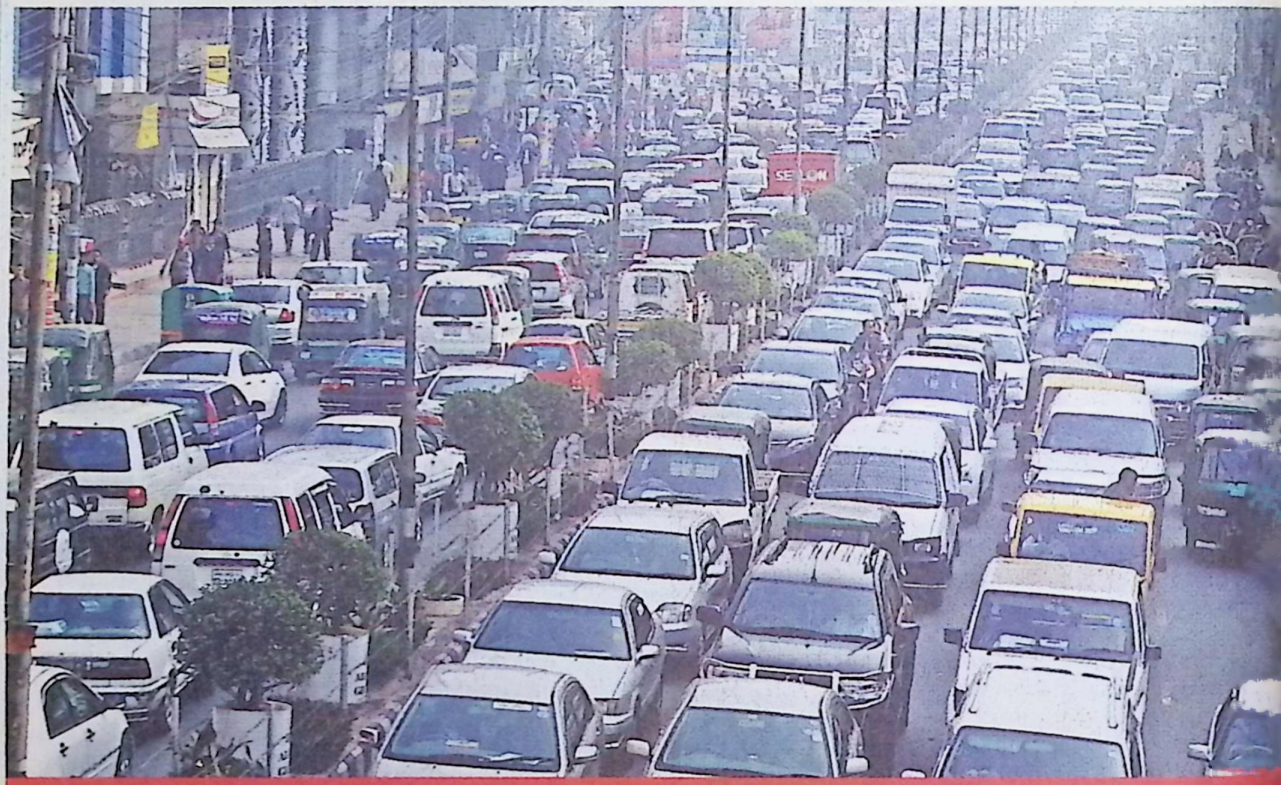


Service-Oriented Politics

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Politics is a science of managing diversity within society to balance the needs and concerns of various clusters of population. As economists would put it, it is an unstable equilibrium where everything hangs in a delicate situation. Unfortunately, the severity of the disruptions that we have been facing has shaken up the entire system. Our political parties have not been able to reach any positive outcome by debating over their differences. Therefore, it's high time to shift the focus from the "she said, he said" monotony towards service-orientation in politics. As responsible citizens, it's our duty to voice our needs and concerns objectively and set the correct standard for those who take oaths to serve us in public offices. It might seem utopian, but what's the alternative? The present situation is a race to the pit-less bottom.

As citizens, our needs and what we want from our government varies widely, depending on our social and economic status, geographic location within the country, and our religious values and beliefs. But the one thing that each and every individual needs, is security. In this, Hindus, Christians, Buddhists and Muslims are all united and so are the rich and the poor. It is the government's duty to ensure security of life for its citizens. Unfortunately, the present Awami-league government and the previous BNP government have both failed grossly in providing us with this basic necessity.

The government needs to take a strong stance against crime, firstly through "self-evaluation". We cannot eradicate something in our surrounding environment as long as that same quality resides within us. This is the most difficult hurdle in bringing any kind of positive change. A policy of "zero-tolerance" must be adopted against crime. The government needs to be committed in removing impunity of powerful defaulters, also known as the collective "Big Fish". It needs to harness laws within the police department to stop police brutality. It needs to put functioning institutions in place. At present we may have volumes of rules and laws on paper. I'm talking about simplifying them, and applying them! Only then will the government be in a position to address crimes within society and provide each citizen with the security that we deserve.