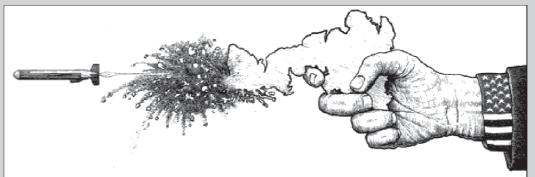
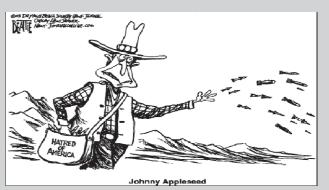
Letters will only be considered if they carry the writer's full name, address and telephone number (if any). The identity of the writers will be protected. Letters must be limited to 300 words. All letters will be subject to editing.





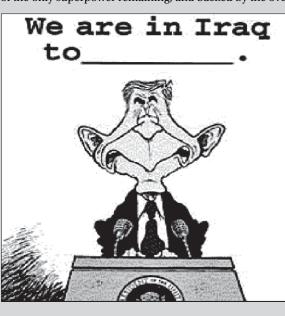




How many more years of Bush?

 $What was \, supposed \, to \, be \, a \, fight \, against \, terrorism \, has \, now \, become \, a \, "witch-hunt" \, against \, countries \, that \, oppose \, American \, views \, of \, the \, against \, countries \, that \, oppose \, American \, views \, of \, the \, against \, countries \, that \, oppose \, American \, views \, of \, the \, against \, countries \, that \, oppose \, American \, views \, of \, the \, against \, countries \, that \, oppose \, American \, views \, of \, the \, against \, countries \, that \, oppose \, American \, views \, of \, the \, against \, countries \, that \, oppose \, against \, countries \, against \, ag$ "new world order". What was supposed to be a collective and conscientious effort on the part of civilised nations to deal with the "forces of evil" is slowly turning out to be the most brutal attack against humanity itself.

George W. Bush is the one man who had the means to shape the future of the world. With the powers bestowed upon him as the leader of the only superpower remaining, and backed by the overwhelming sympathy and support shown by the world after 9/11, he could



A. Find and destroy weapons of mass destruction

B. Combat terrorism

C. Force regime change

D. Protect the free world's oil supply

E. Annoy the French

F. All of the above

CARREL CARREL

have gone down in history as one of the most significant contributors to peace. His "crusade against terrorism" would have been so much more effective and heralded had he paid heed to world opinion! But instead he chose arrogance over diplomacy, aggression over peace and misused his power to divide the world so sharply.

It is clearly evident that one US under the Bush Administration is more dangerous than a "100 Saddams or Osama Bin Ladens". The world knows now that the US has no allegiance to its allies except Israel. The time it takes to convince the American pub-

lic between "Good" and "Evil" is the time it takes for a "friend" to turn into a "foe" in the White House and Pentagon. The more worrying issue in hand right now is that the American Presidency runs on a four-year mandate and G.W. Bush has only completed two. God help the world!

what worries me, is our profound

legacy of lacking any sense of propor-

tion. For, the recent violence exposes

multiple facts: day by day, the anti-war

protest is getting violent that sets

precedence for further vandalism, as it

crude hypocrisy

Farhan Ouddus

Old DOHS, Banani, Dhaka

Violent anti-war protest in Dhaka

It is disturbing to see the violent protests this weekend in Dhaka. The socalled "peace-loving devotees" decided to burn effigies, break office windows, burn vehicles in order to protest the allied forces' actions in Iraq.

I wonder how destruction of properties can bring peace let alone make any change of the situation in Iraq. I was also amazed to learn about the calls by some professional bodies to boycott Anglo-American goods. But these days, in the global age it is difficult to find anything that is solely American or British. Products like Coke, McDonalds have long ago crossed their country of origin and have now become global products. Unless we want to dig our heads and bury them inside the sand it will be suicidal to think of boycotting global products like Microsoft

I was amazed to hear when the Imam of our mosque asked us not to use products of Lever Brothers in his Friday *Jumma* prayer sermon. I am sure this Imam is unaware that not only Lever's parent company Unilever is a global company but it employs hundreds of Bangladeshis and is actively contributing to the social and economical uplift of Bangladesh.

One can certainly protest war in a democratic society, however, we cannot allow Talibanisation of Bangla-

Shahed Ahmed Moghbazar, Dhaka

I was bewildered going through your esteemed daily on April 5. What kind of idiosyncrasy is this in the name of antiwar protest? Has Bush promised to stop bombing Iraq if we ransacked our own country? What good will such stupid, peasant-like attitude bring I really fail to understand. Boycotting the American and British goods is one sound way of protesting but destroying your own country's resources? Why? What would that achieve?

My request to those who really want to protest: please act rationally. If you are as violent and irrational in your actions just as Bush and Blair invading Iraq, what difference is there between you and them? Various ways of protests are being discussed everyday everywhere, in all forms of media, Please pick one that makes sense and will be effective. Taking it out on billboards and British-American companies won't win this war.

Fuad Bin Rahman

With grave concern, in order to bring attention to raise voice against the recent violence followed by the antiwar protest in Dhaka, I am writing you, so that in the near future, preventive measures against such vandalism can be ensured. Although I am quite aware of the fact that Bangladesh has caught the fever of the recent war in Iraq, and the majority of the people of Bangladesh do sympathise with the Iraqi people; however, I cannot approve of such tendency because of pragmatism. Therefore, in order to express solidarity, though I do not see any objection in bringing out procession, but for the greater interest of the nation, I believe

that it is time to make a realistic assess-

ment, since chronic violence would

ordinary people and cause financial Since, Bangladesh is passing through a

precarious state of diplomacy, as it is caught in a dilemma in international politics, it is imperative that as a nation, we take a middle course, so that over enthusiasm does not earn us any negative image, let alone of wrath of the West, which might have an adverse effect on our economy.

Shibly Azad mbia University, USA

We are reading you loud and clear - what are you

only jeopardise our national interest. reading? In fact, as a concerned Bangladeshi,

After reading many of the articles in your paper, I am not surprised at the anti-American tone of the opinions being expressed. The problem is that your readers are talking to one another, and do not want to face the facts of what has happened in Iraq.

A history of the past 30 years shows

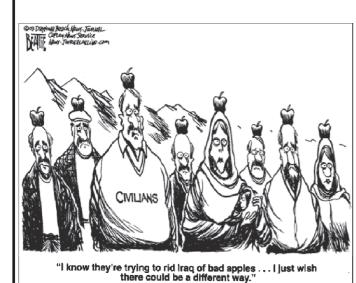
is evident in setting arson, loot, and Cluster bombs and

Killing people in scores and 'liberating' the same people! How does it sound like? This is true especially with Donald Rumsfeld and Geof Hoon when the former generals say that using cluster bomb is 'effective' and when the latter himself says it is 'suitable' for war on Iraq! What a crude hypocrisy! The same mouths talk about 'liberating'

Their unimpressive falsehood and denial apropos bombing a market place in Baghdad that killed over 60 people forbade them to tell lies this time regarding their use of cluster bombs. But what is hypocritical is that they seem not to know anything about the devastation and ravages of cluster bombs; as if the two defence secretaries are unaware how these bombs work! Cluster bombs have already killed dozens of civilians in Iraq. The way cluster bomb works is that, at first it detonates larger bombs and spray smaller ones over a large area. The first detonated larger bombs kill indiscriminately both civilians and rival soldiers. The consequence of the undetonated smaller ones is even more dangerous, more nightmarish. They work like landmines and keep killing civilians-men, women and children alike -long after the battle is over. The yellowish-smaller-undetonated bombs catch the eyes of children who get hold of them as plaything only to meet death. The cluster bombs thrown last year in 'liberating' Afghanistan are still killing people there. To go further back in history, cluster bombs have been killing civilians in Laos since war finished 30 years ago.

This is how US and UK regimes are 'liberating' the people of Iraq! This is Anglo-American way of winning the 'heart and mind' of people of other countries! Mahmud

Portsmouth, UK



that Iraq has been armed primarily by

the Soviet Union, Germany and

France, not by the United States of

America. The Iraqis keep very good

records, and the records show the

armaments and chemical factories that

were supplied by these countries. The

only period in which the US supplied

arms to Iraq was the period between

1980 and 1988, and most of these were

of a non-lethal nature, primarily

trucks. Fertiliser factories were sup-

plied by American companies until it

became clear that the Iraqis has other

plans for these plants, and were not

really interested in producing fertiliser.

America is not interested in Iraq oil

agitation that disrupts lives of the

Any oil that is produced in Iraq will be sold by the Iraqis, and it will enter the world supply of oil. It will flow to the appropriate refineries in the world that are suited to the grade of oil that is available. Iraqi oil may end up in Japan, while oil from Indonesia may end up in American refineries. American oil men would prefer to sell Alaskan oil to Japan and buy oil for the East Coast from Iraq. It is just ignorance of the international

oil trade that causes people to keep

arguing that America wants Iraq's oil.

The best use of Iraq's oil is for it to be sold in large quantities so that the people of Iraq can benefit from the proceeds. For the past two decades, it has been used by a mad dictator to enrich himself with palaces, weapons. and armies. The villages of Iraq look like those in India and Bangladesh, sometimes poorer. Sitting on oil wealth while the Iraqi people die of hunger, thirst, disease and pestilence is no investment in the future of the country.

It is time for your readers to read the facts of what has happened in Iraq before they blindly pounce on the nation that is sacrificing in no small way to make Iraq a free nation.

Marian Noronha Madbury, USA

It's a sick, sad world!

Here we are having debates over collateral damage which are human lives, living souls like you and me! The media is only concerned about capturing clips on their cameras and portraying them as reality entertainment. We must realise that these are actual footage with real people in real situations and NOT some action movie!

Even by absorbing such horrific images, the world is not taking firmer measures to put a stop to it! It's a

Shaker

War news verification

I have been reading The Daily Star for its view on the war but I've noticed its reporting on the war leaves much to be desired. For example, does The Daily Star have its own reporter in Baghdad? If not, then how does it take for granted the propaganda released by the Iragis? How does one know it is the Iragis who are not shooting missiles on civilian population and thus generating world condemnation for the US? Does anybody think Saddam Hussein is not capable of doing such a thing? Are you doing any independent verification of the number of civilian casualties the Iraqi Information Minister is claiming

And why isn't The Daily Star condemning the Iraqi tactics of soldiers dressed as civilians pretending to surrender and then opening fire on the US troops, shooting behind the protection of mosques and hospitals and hiding anti aircraft batteries and artillery inside schools and in densely populated areas?

I am not a supporter of this preemptive strike on Iraq but as long as Saddam Hussein deliberately puts his civilian population in harm, the US shouldn't have any restrictions on attacking those targets which are deemed hazardous to its military. Mahmud

Detroit, MI, USA

To the Secretary General of the UN

Recently the UN Security Council witnessed a fiery debate on the Iraq issue. The Security Council was divided on the issue whether force should be used against Iraq. However, much to the disappointment of many people across the world the US and the UK have started bombing Iraq.

Iraq is a sovereign and independent country. The use of force against a sovereign and independent country without proper UN authorisation is a breech of the UN Charter which both the US and UK had signed.

The use of force against the people of Iraq is a vulgar display of might and power. The Bush administration has clearly turned a blind eye to the many anti-war protests held across the world including the cities of New York, Washington and London

As I write to you today, many Iraqi children are losing their fathers and brothers. Pregnant women are giving birth to pre-mature babies without having any proper medical treatment. Already, there has been more then five hundred casualties from both sides and we are just weeks into the war. Further military action would be disastrous not only to Iraq but also to the whole world.

The UN being a powerful and influential institution has shown reluctance towards establishing peace in Iraq and to other parts of the Middle East. The world should have witnessed and heard a statement denouncing war from the Secretary-General but no such action was taken on your behalf.

I therefore, urge the United Nations to look into this matter and find a peaceful solution to end this insane invasion into Iraq by the combined

Sheikh Tanieb Islam

Sunbeams School, Dhaka

I agree with many of your writers and vast majority of European leaders that the Iragis have been badly set down by the UN and in particular by its secre-

And it's a honourable thing to do for Mr. Kofi Annan to step down and resign for UN's failure to disarm Iraq peacefully and importantly UN's failure to secure a central role to safeguard Iraqi resources for it's people rather than play a second fiddle to American administrator - retired general Jay

US and UK would lose the PR if it goes ahead without UN backing setting up post Iraq administration. And importantly, post Iraq administration should be shaped by UN and key stake holders meaning neighbouring countries like Iran, Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait Manzoor H Ashraf

Kensington, London

Senators Byrd and **McCain**

I am writing in response to both the letters of Riki (March 26) and Nazmul Karim (April 3).

Nazmul Karim correctly stated that Senator McCain is the father of an adopted Bangladeshi girl. He, however, incorrectly claimed that Senator McCain as a Democrat whereas, Senator McCain is actually a Republican Senator from Arizona, who contested against George W. Bush in the Republican primaries and not Al Gore in the Democratic primaries. Senator John McCain actually won the first primary in New Hampshire but eventually lost out the nomination to George W. Bush who had almost the entire Republican Party machinery backing him. Just goes to show that sometimes the best man does not win. S. Abedin New York, USA

This is in response to Mr Nazmul Karim regarding Senator John McCain. Mr Nazmul got his facts wrong. Mr McCain is a Republican who had contested in the Republican primaries against Mr

It is widely known that the Bush team used a smear campaign against the man who is also a Vietnam Vet and a former POW. The smear campaign worked and Mr Bush was able to win the Republican Presidential nomina-

This is in regards to the letter by Nazmul Karim I'm sorry to have to set him right, but

John McCain is emphatically not a Democrat. He was a contender for the nomination for President from the Republican Party and came to within a hairs breath of achieving it. I would ask Nazmul to visit www.friendsofmccain.com or his web

http://mccain.senate.gov/ or best email John McCain at

john_mccain@mccain.senate.gov On the child Nazmul is right; McCain's adoptive child is a girl, named Bridget. You can read about her

http://www.beachbrowser.com/Ar <u>c h i v e s / N e w s - a n d - H u m a n -</u> Interest/december-99/Cindy-McCains-Own-Story.htm

Refused to fight -

soldiers sent home Two British soldiers have been sent home from Iraq for refusal to fight in the US-led war and could face a court martial. A spokesman for their lawyer said the two soldiers had told their commanding officers they did not want to fight in a war "involving the death of innocent civilians". The lawyer did not wish to be named for fear of identifying his clients. Report from Britain said the two returning soldiers were from the 16 Air Assault Brigade, which is involved in operations in southern Iraq.

I.A.Obaydullah

"Operation Iraqi Freedom"

If you are hoping for an Iraqi miracle or wishing a curse on the Americans for the outrage that is laughably called "Operation Iraqi Freedom" do not hold your breath. Just as Rome was not built in a day, neither was it destroyed in a day. Yes, the empire did finally bite the dust, but not in Peter's lifetime. And while the righteous among us are incensed at the travesty of morality in Iraq and wish that the wrath of God on the Americans, be rest assured it won't happen anytime soon. There are very few chinks in Goliath's armour. At least

God, however, has mysterious ways of dealing with excesses. Condign recompense will prevail. Someday. Eventually. What is millennium to us is only a "twinkling of an eye" by God's reckoning. As He said in Sura Asr " By Time. Verily Man is in loss, Except such as have Faith, Patience and Constancy".

Boycott US products

Right now we are witnessing massive boycott of American goods by not only Muslim countries but also anti-war countries like France and Germany. I believe it is time we in Bangladesh systematically started boycotting American products. I think Coca-Cola would be a good start.

Let's stop financing the American war machine. Let's send corporate America a message. The world will not stand oppression, aggression and needless loss of life so that America can quench its imperialist thirst for oil. Shahnewaz Siddique

Uttara, Dhaka

Situation in the US

Ever since 9/11 anyone of Middle Eastern and Indian Subcontinental descent was viewed in a very unsavoury way. Well, by Indian Subcontinent I mean the Bangladeshis, Pakistanis and some Punjabis. But, the fact remains the feelings have further escalated with

What most Americans who are so supportive of this war fail to realise is that their beloved military is acting on the wishes and beliefs of a conservative regime that is no different from the infamous German dictator. The Holocaust seems to be inevitable if this continues and I fear that this time due to advancement in technology the

 $repercussions\, are\, quiet\, unimaginable.$ Doesn't it surprise everyone that both events are taking place at a time of great economic recession? Well, the condition in Germany was worse back then. But, regardless there are too many similarities that can't be ignored. In the name of democracy and fear of invasion this country is doing just the same. While individuals both Americans and Bangladeshi Americans are protesting against these people are being arrested left and right. What I fear is that being blacklisted by the US is just the beginning. Zeenat Syed

Let the Iraqis choose

Under the rule of Saddam Hussein, the Iragi people had no voice, no choice and no hope. Every penny made from the sale of oil was spent by Saddam for the things he decided was necessary; such as a new palace, as if several dozen were not enough. He made his wealth at the expense of the Iraqi people! His violent empire tortured, imprisoned or killed many Iraqi people - without trial or cause, only on suspicion. Yet somehow the rest of the people in the Mid East were just happy to let the Iraqi people remain the way they were. I read one letter that described "forced democracy". At least with democracy you can vote out a bad leader! With democracy you can vote on how the oil money should be spent.

The Americans are totally confused by the politics, culture and attitudes of the people in the Mid East. I have seen countless documentaries where many Mid East people were interviewed as to why they are so hostile towards the westerners. The most important message I got from those interviews was that warped and distorted views that are being fed by the Mid East press to the people living there. Instead of simply reporting the facts, the press reports are slanted and skewed to provide an Anti western view. One thing is clear to me, the situation must be fixed because this world keeps getting smaller and smaller.

 $Americans\,don't\,like\,war.\,We\,are\,not$

"warmongers" as stated by some of your letters. We want peace. I say, let the Iraqi's choose. And be a good neighbour and support them because I

TSouza

UN is supposed to keep peace in this world!

The world as we know is going through a lot of crisis. The Iraq war is taking its toll and people there are living in

However, the UN does not seem to notice all these. They are not taking any particular step to stop the war from getting any worse

Children are being killed brutally, pregnant mothers are loosing or giving birth to immature babies and of course thousands are dying every day resulting in people loosing their near and

Is it not high time that the UN took some serious steps against all these cruelty? Why is not the UN taking any solid measures in order to stop the war? Shahzenn Hafiz Sunbeams School, Dhaka

Exposing the "Liberator"

The Anglo-US force are battling for the "hearts and minds" to convince the world of their honourable intentions in "Liberating" Iraq. The following points briefly raises some questions regarding the US plan for the post-Saddam era:

a) The plan includes a transition period of a US led Military rule, until democracy can be established. Although this transition period has been justified for practical reasons, it is still questionable. As self-proclaimed "Liberators" one would have expected the US to be eager in handing over this role to some independent party, rather than wrangle with the EU. Furthermore, no time scale for the duration is mentioned. In essence the "Liberation" has to wait, until the US military rule succeeds in producing a suitable Iraqi regime, which serves her inter-

b) Since the military "rule" will be primarily US led, who will keep an eye on the financial affairs of repairing Iraq and its rich oil fields?

c) Colin Powell has now raised the issue of the US financial contribution along with the lives of its soldiers sacrificed. No mention of the sacrifices (Collateral Damage) of the Iraqi civilians to date and the damage inflicted on its infrastructure! Why should the people of Iraq pay for a war, which they did not request or initiate? Is Mr Colin Powell now hinting that Iraqi oil should be used to pay for the financial cost of this "Liberation" war? Yamin Zakaria

UK, London

Truth is the casualty of war?



Conventional wisdom tells us truth indeed is the first casualty of war. We have been inundated with volleys of untruths and unconcealed propaganda in the past two weeks of this Invasion of Iraq. So much so, that the Western media have succeeded in becoming counterproductive by their one-sided propaganda.

Be that as it may, what has not been a casualty is public perception of this war not just in Iraq or in the region but throughout the world. Protests have been unprecedented

race and age, even political spectrum. Those who waged this invasion have been clearly isolated. What is truly remarkable is the large number of people who showed uncommon courage and took a few risks in the United States; who refused to be taken in by the most biased and deliberate propaganda by Fox, CNN, and BBC. They took risks too for it is seen as "unpatriotic" in the USA to come out in protest against this illegitimate and unlawful adventure of military aggression by the mighty against a

spanning geography, culture,

Indeed, the American military power is unparalleled and those now in charge of US policy wish to launch the American Empire on the platform of "shock and awe" to the rest of the world. Powerful as it is, the only force that is even more powerful in the US and indeed should be so in all democratic and free societies, is the civil society. Those who govern may ignore or misread the civil society for some time but not for long for their own survival. Hussain, Dhaka

weak and suffering people.