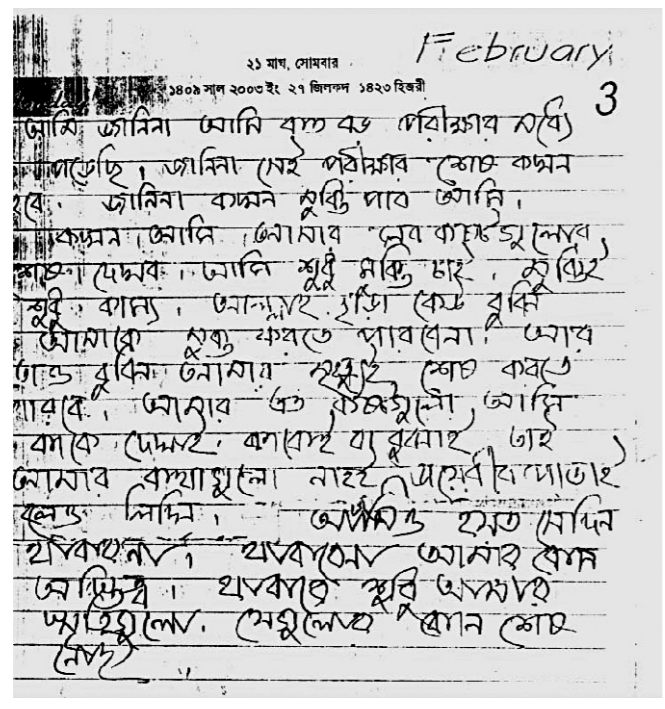


Letters will only be considered if they carry the writer's full name, address and telephone number (if any). The identity of the writers will be protected. Letters must be limited to 300 words. All letters will be subject to editing.

Tease terror

I softly touched Rumi's Cheek on my computer screen. She opted to take her life rather than living a life full of fear. Fear of the possibility of physical and emotional abuse, sexual violence and the social stigma. These are familiar feelings that almost all of our girls in Bangladesh encounter while growing up. Now there are incentives for girls to attend schools. But where is the security when they step out of their home? What about the streets, transports used by them, or the school campus? Who is going to guarantee the parents that their girl will come back without being harassed? Did Rumi really choose to take her life because she had the 'freedom' of choice? We witnessed similar cases in the past and quite understand the emotion why death was the last resort of a desperate and innocent young girl. Let us not forget that she was forced into this situation. Shall we just be sad for a moment and then get on with our own lives? Or shall we try to think of the ways of assisting our younger generation, both the girls and the boys so that they may feel secure? What is the solution then? It is much more complex than just delivering harsh punishments for



those boys who become tormentors. Many of these boys have nothing better to do! Their playgrounds are being grabbed by the housing development estates; they do not have alternative leisure activities; unemployment rate is rising. Let us be aware that these boys are also products of frustration and insecurity. Why not have a workshop or a dialogue on this issue? The community organisations need to come

forward. We need to think strategically before it is too late. I don't want to touch another 'dead' Rumi's face on my computer screen. I don't want to be reminded of that scary feeling of being teased by some local hooligans. Bina D'Costa Lecturer, The Australian National University Canberra, Australia

We are also proud of IBA that it doesn't waste times for any session jam. Here it may be noted that I am also not telling IBA to increase its seats or to take less competitive students or to do something for which IBA will face problems. I just want that IBA authority should fill those vacant seats with the prosperous students that remain empty only of its admission system. To clarify myself let me give you an example. Last year two of mine bosom friend (T and S) had been participated in the BBA admission test of IBA. Between them T who was successful after the viva test but didn't admit himself in IBA when he got chance in the Electrical and Electronics Department of BUET. Where S wasn't successful in the viva board though she did as well as T in the written test. She was really unlucky that she couldn't make IBA teachers believe that she would never leave IBA if she would get chance to study there. All this was happened before their first semester started. Now S is studying BBA in one of the most prestigious private university in Dhaka. My friend could go for private university but there are a lot of students in our country who doesn't effort it. For this reason they have to change their desirable subject. This is not only the true stories of my friends but also every year few other promising students facing the same problem. Now you tell me if IBA authority give a short waiting list with those promising students then shouldn't they stop this kind empty seats? They need not to take students from the waiting list in the middle or end of the semester. But they can easily do it before their first semester will start. We knew that IBA have very limited seats for their BBAMBA courses. So do you think it is fare enough to remain a single seat vacant in the country like ours where we have only a few good institutions for higher education? So we should all concern about the present situation here. Well, as a concern citizen I feel very involved about the IBA (DU) admission system where every year 10-20 seats remains empty. I am not blaming anyone but this should be change immediately by issuing a waiting list or with another better solution. I think IBA authority and its

Anyway, I will end up my letter by wishing IBA (DU) all the best. Keep going up and up. Samiha Esha Uttara, Dhaka

Development aid Bangladesh has yet to become self reliant in economic terms. Apart from the countries with global political stature, the other smaller yet benevolent countries hardly receive any recognition. People should be made aware of their existence and bridge gaps to open doors for wider, bilateral co-operation. Norway is a good friend of Bangladesh. It has been sometime that they have engaged themselves in various sectors of the developing world. Their taxpayers sacrifice a significant amount from their pockets to help developing countries like ours. Such friends deserve greater recognition and kudos from the people here. We could open a cultural centre of this wonderful country and gain broader knowledge about them. We are yet to know more about their culture, lifestyle, people, history and so on to have a greater understanding, so that we can say thank you in their own language! Shaker One-mail

Thanks to the UGC and a suggestion We have learnt from different newspapers that the University Grand Commission (UGC) is going to undertake a courageous step to make a rigid proposal aiming at regulating the improper appointments and promotions of the teachers and officers in the public universities. In the proposal it will be mentioned that at least three to five research papers must be published in each step to apply for the promotion to the post of assistant professor, associate professor and professor, respectively. I myself feel that it is a great initiative for the improvement of teaching and research activities in the universities. I would like to thank the UGC from the bottom of my heart for this brilliant initiative. As I understand the main purpose of the above initiative is first to improve and then to maintain the standard of teaching and research. It is perhaps known to

Biased to the post-paid owners?

Recently all mobile companies reduced their charge for post-paid mobiles. Now rate for post-paid is around Tk 3 per minute. While pre-paid owners pay 6 to 7 tk per minute for the same call, I don't

know why the post-paid owners will pay less? And why the companies are neglecting the pre-paid owners? Will they reduce their charge for pre-paid owners? If the answer is no then I think

they will start to lose their popularity gradually. Istiaque Uddin (Rifat) Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (RUET), Rajshahi



Pre-paid bad, post-paid good!

strongly believe that inclusion of my proposal with those of the UGC will produce a more efficient regulation for the academic development. Therefore I would like to draw the attention of the concerned policy makers to my proposal. Dr G. M. Bhuiyan Professor, University of Dhaka

Drying out Bangladesh Bangladesh. As per the opinion of the experts, implementation of this plan would bring about havoc on ecology, environment and economy as well, of Bangladesh. As per opinion of the experts, loss would be at least three folds more, which caused from building of Farakka Barrage and would accelerate the process of desertification of the major part of Bangladesh. Meantime, India has already managed to dry out one third of Bangladesh, by commissioning the Farakka Barrage over the mighty river Ganges,

of Farakka barrage, until now could be able to adopt an unified stand on Farakka issue protecting the interest of the people of the country. Taking this opportunity, meantime, India has managed to impose a bilateral agreement on Farakka issue protecting their interest fully, although Ganges is an international river and as per international law on sharing of water, agreement on water sharing of Ganges should be an international agreement involving all the countries through which river is flowing. As a result of Farakka Barrage, ecology of one third of Bangladesh affected badly and the climate of one third of the country gradually turning into desert like. About 40 million peoples of the country, directly or indirectly, affected badly due to Farakka Barrage. Insufficient flow in the Ganges and its branches has increased the salinity of the water in the coastal areas of south-eastern part of the country substantially, which is causing immense loss to the agriculture of said areas. World's biggest mangrove forest "Sunderban" is in the process of extinction. As estimated by the experts, Farakka Barrage already caused billions of dollar of loss to country's economy, agriculture, environment and ecology and this continue to increase in pace with time. Despite these facts, political personalities of the country, who claim that they are patriotic, are not vocal on the issue. Now India has planned to divert water from most of the rest 53 rivers, which are flowing over Bangladesh to Bay of Bengal, through "Giant River Linking Projects" intended to divert water from the rivers, which are flowing through Bangladesh, to her drought prone southern and eastern states. If this project is implemented, dry-out plan of major part of Bangladesh will be completed. But unfortunately, none of the political parties in the country have time to look into the issue, although, as opined by the experts, implementation of "Giant River Linking Projects" would bring catastrophe for Bangladesh and its population. Indian government is now taking preparation to seek international funds for the project and hence, it is the time for Bangladeshis, who are living abroad, to work together forgetting respective political ideology and to render full efforts to activate the world opinion against the India's evil design for drying out our beloved motherland Bangladesh. Fakhru Alam Siddeshwari, Dhaka

Retirement age

The unanimous recommendation by the Parliamentary Select Committee for extending retirement age from 57 to 60 and your editorial in its favour are both very timely indeed. The current age of retirement at 57 is ridiculously early and there can really be no argument in favour of its retention except inertia by the government or bad politics. Pakistan and India, where the bureaucracy is structured very similar to ours have a retirement age of 60 and in countries in the West, it is even more flexible with many Departments of the US Government having no set age for retirement. The argument that extending retirement age would adversely affect the promotions of officers down the line is an incorrect one. It is true the promotions would be delayed for some but then they too will get the benefit of serving those extra years as their services too would be extended. The other argument that extending retirement would hinder recruitment at entry level is also not an entirely correct one. What needs to be done to counteract this is to phase the recruitment process by recruiting a slightly lesser number in each of the recruitment examinations so that no one really feels that the government is recruiting less number of people through these examinations. The present government, owing to the fact that earlier governments never paid any serious attention to personnel management, is now faced with a serious situation where it has been forced to misuse the system of contractual appointments. What it should have done on coming to power is to extend the age limit that they did not do because of political reasons, i.e. to ensure that the 1973 batch that was instrumental in removing it from power in 1996 was taken care of. By waiting any longer, it would be creating more complications. I request the prime minister to ensure that the bill of Mr. Mannan is passed without delay. Shahjahan Ahmed Dhanmandi, Dhaka

built up two major political parties in our country and very few expects that this chain will change in near future. Now we expect a shrewd and mature return from our main political parties. Recently our PM has called for national consensus and healthy criticism and constructive opposition from opposition AL. But mere speech and hollow invitation means nothing in politics. Our country has plunged in to serious economical problems. We might express our positive hope and jubilation showing some statistics of the economy. But reality is reality. Have ever we thought about those Adamjee Mills workers - who have just vanished from our eyesight, how are they now? This has to be taken in to account as our government is going to retrench workers and employees from some other mills/ organisations. Jkobir, Dhaka

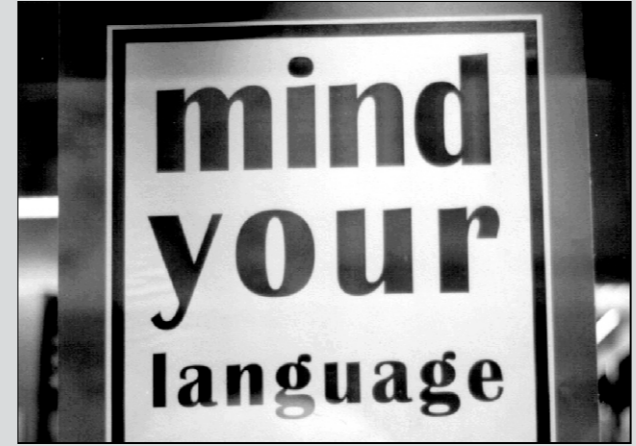
voice, narration etc.), from class VIII different English structures and free writings should be introduced. I fully agree with Mr. Momin and Dr. Alam that Communicative method of teaching English is a failure. It is a failed system in our context. The sooner it is stopped the better it is for the students. It has destroyed the base of English already. No more debate is essential. With old time-tested grammatical methods, little modifications in marks arrangement and addition of audio testing and speaking ability tests are enough to create a strong foundation of English learning. Azizul Huqse Kandirpar, Comilla

How much time needed for an independent judiciary?

As a student of law I am concerned about the separation of judiciary from the executive. Present law minister on several occasions admitted the necessity of an independent judiciary but did not confirm when it will be done. In my opinion it will not be possible within one year. But if the present government takes initiatives along with the opponent parties, it will be possible within a reasonable time frame. The government is not treating the matter very seriously. There is a sanction in our constitution about judiciary that must be separated from the executive. So this is our constitutional duty to sovereign judiciary. So without any further delay, I request the law minister to separate judiciary from the executive. Saumitra Sarder Piklu LL.B(honours), Final year, Faculty of law, DU

IBA (DU) should change

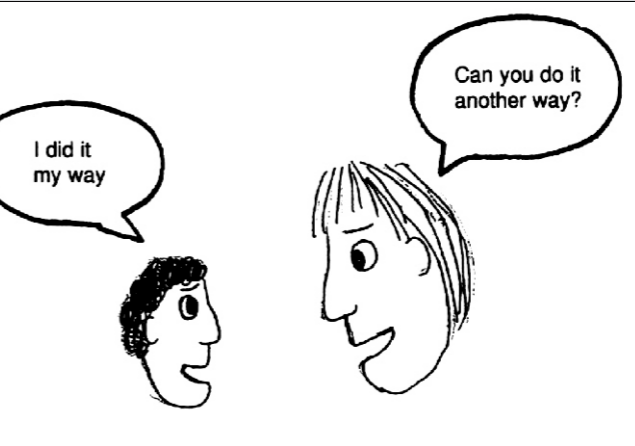
This is in reply to the letter of Ms. Arani (DS July 28). First of all I would like to draw the attention of Ms. Arani about my previous letter. Ms., In my first letter I wrote very clearly that the condition of the students is pathetic not for IBA or its system. Besides I also pointed out the whole story in my last letter. Here I am not denying about any of my statement but you should go for my first letter again and then you can see how crystal clearly I mentioned my lines. I think when a student get chance in the written test of IBA among the large number of participants then he/she can't be less competitive or meritorious. So I fully disagree with you. I agree that IBA keeps its good name till now with its high standard.



Mind your language please!

I write this to update my knowledge and education on a topic of journalistic importance. This has suddenly become important after I watched an interview programme telecast by our satellite television channel, Channel I on the evening of August 2, 2003. The interviewer was Ms. Shampa Reza and the interviewee was Mr. Saadi Mohammad, a renowned Rabindra Sangeet artist. I take special interest in different interview programmes telecast by our local television channels, the BBC, CNN, Star World, etc. It

is always a delight to watch Tim Sebastian in BBC's Hard Talk, Larry King in CNN's Larry King Live, Simiti Gawarel in Star World's Rendezvous, Mr. Serajul Majid Mamun, Mr. Rafiquzzaman and Mrs. Shaheda Obaid occasionally on BTV, interviewing celebrities. These interviews are both entertaining and educating. The interview I am referring to here seemed a bit too off-beat, too informal and too personal. As a former newspaper reporter, I know that the interviewer at times would try to be as informal as possible to make the interview lively. It



Can you do it another way?

may also happen that (as it often does) the interviewer and the interviewee may know each other very well. They may have the best and most informal of relations outside the TV screen. But does this allow them to cross the lowest limit of informality in their conversation? Does this allow them to use the most informal of words? The frequent use of the Bengali words 'Tu' (meaning you), 'Tor' (meaning your) and other 'too informal' words throughout the interview were perhaps too distasteful. The way the whole interview was conducted smacked of bad

taste, defying standard journalistic practices and norms. I would be particularly interested to know if Channel I has any guidelines for such programmes or they just give a blank cheque to the interviewee (and also the interviewee) to go to any limit of informality. As a media researcher I am concerned and hope that sanity will prevail. Professor Quazi Abdul Mannan Department of Mass communication and Journalism, DU

student will not take my letter in any other point of view. I hope IBA (DU) will observe my letter very carefully and nevertheless very soon they will show us their revolution so that in future there will be not a single seat remain vacant in the time of the admission test. Drop outs or failings to secure good results in the semesters are another fact...its better not to mix up two different facts together and overlooking my point of view.

all that the local research journals do not have even the minimal international standard although some of these are termed as the referred journals. So the number of local publications in no way justifies any research value. Due to this grave situation I proposed in an article (The Sangbad, 5 December 2002) that at least two thirds of the required numbers should be published in the international journals. I

While two major political parties of the country, which would rule the country alternatively, as appears from the last decade, are engaged in wrangle, mostly due to personality clash rather than ideology, ignoring the people's and country's interest as well, India is quietly going ahead with the plan to divert waters from all the major rivers, which are flowing from Himalayan region to Bay of Bengal through India and

which is situated only few kilometres from northern border of Bangladesh. Because of Farakka Barrage, water flow in Ganges at Paksey Bridge point comes down to a meagre 50-60 thousand cubic feet per second during lean period from over 7 million cubic feet per second during monsoon. Because of the nasty power politics, none of the governments since 1976, year of commissioning



Iraq burns: Oil or liberation?

"A freer Iraq?"

I am writing in reference to the comment on my earlier letter by Fayed Ahmed ("A freer Iraq?" DS August 4). Fayed Ahmed has repeated the often-quoted accusation that Bush ousted Saddam for Iraq's oil. But if Iraq's oil is their only goal, then U.S. would have first conquered Saudi Arabia -- the world's largest oil exporter. As Mark Proudman, a Canadian historian at the Oxford University, recent wrote in The National Post: "If the real objective of US policy was simply to get cheap oil, it would only need to lift the blockade of Iraq, thus letting the enormous Iraqi oil reserves onto market, and driving the price of oil below \$10 a barrel. ... Had the United States been a real imperial power, it would have capitalised on the 1991

Gulf War victory to demand the cession of some Iraqi oil fields, as reparation for the costs and risks of war. But the idea was never been mooted." In fact, the Gulf War of 1991 was an opportunity to conquer Iraq when the Shiite majority rose in revolt in southern Iraq where most of Iraq's oilfields are located. Shiites are about 60 per cent of Iraq's total population and yet they were marginalised by Saddam's small group of Sunni tribe who ruled Iraq through sheer brute force and the Shiites were virtually outcasts in their own country. Bush Sr.'s offered them a golden opportunity to free themselves from Saddam's tyrannical yoke and they were certain that America would come to their aid once the revolt was on. But instead of helping the rebels,

Bush Sr. and his advisers stood silent and let Saddam brutally crush the revolt. Thousands of lightly-armed Shiites perished when Saddam unleashed his tanks and a formidable American force in just-liberated Kuwait stood by and did nothing. Bush Sr. must have reckoned that if Shiite majority succeeded, Iraq would come under the domination of Shiite Iran which was considered a greater threat. But he failed to realise that if Iraq was liberated by the American forces, the United States would have called all the shots and Iraq would have joined Kuwait as a pro-American country. The United States bears a historical responsibility for betraying the Iraqi people. By ousting Saddam in 2003, President George W. Bush has finally

redeemed America's betrayal of the Iraqis in 1991. However, this may be precipitated by terrorist attacks in Sept. 11. After Sept 11, no present or future threat to US security, however small, can be allowed to exist. America ousted Saddam for the same reason it ousted the Taliban in Afghanistan, a country which produces no oil. However, the Shiite majority are the real beneficiary. For the first time, a Shiite cleric is President of Iraq's new Governing Council. Under Saddam Hussein, all that the Shiites could expect was a place under the slammer. Mahmood Elahi, Ottawa, Canada