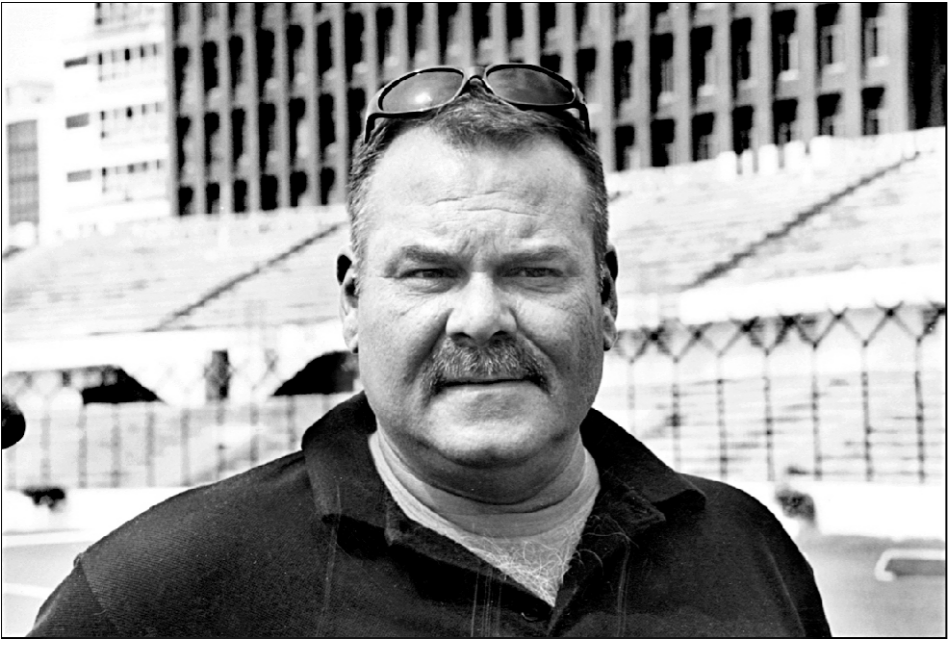


Letters will only be considered if they carry the writer's full name, address and telephone number (if any). The identity of the writers will be protected. Letters must be limited to 300 words. All letters will be subject to editing.

Dear Mr. Whatmore,



First, a hearty congratulations for turning things around. No matter what anyone has to say, one can not disagree with the fact that ever since you have taken charge, the Bangladesh cricket has taken a positive turn. It is true that we have not achieved victory, but, in my opinion, losing to Pakistan by one wicket, and making them go through a tough time, is a victory by itself.

There were some outstandingly consistent performances, from players like Rafique, Rajin Saleh and Habibur Basher who bowled good all through the series. Rajin Saleh has been the "find" of the series, but we should not be over enthusiastic about him. I've already seen a letter to the editor of DS saying he should be made a captain. But I totally disagree with that.

Our concept of captaincy is determined by whoever can play well. Well, I'm very sure that Mr. Whatmore won't be having that in his mind, as he was the coach to a world cup winning team.

In spite of all the coaching skills that you, (Mr. Whatmore) might have, I have one advantage over you: I watched almost every match of the Bangladeshi team since 1992.

Keeping that in mind, I have this opinion regarding our current national team.

**Kashif Mahmood**  
University of Toronto, Canada

21 century demands cooperation, not war

Globalisation, revolution in information and communication technology, privatisation etc. characterise this century. A revolution has taken place in the field of information technology. Internet has turned this world into a global village. In the telecommunication sector, great development has occurred. By sitting in a distant village of Bangladesh any person can talk with anyone living in any corner of the world.

Video conferencing has made it possible to see the picture of the person one is talking with. Great improvement has been done in the field of war science. A country is using ultra modern and super powerful energy and technology. Soldiers sitting on their homeland can win the war. They need not go to the battlefield in person. People have successfully visited the moon and

sent missions to the mars. Now they are thinking of the possibility of living in the moon.

The world has achieved a great commercial advancement. Globalisation has made possible free access of products and goods. But, in the crowd of foreign products our local products are facing sad ending. The question of the existence of the poor people has risen. Darwin's theory of survival of the fittest is applicable in this era. One not fittest may not survive. This has many other bad sides also.

The poor countries are lagging behind. They can not exist in the competitive world market. Consequently, they are getting poorer day by day. Privatisation is another trend in this era of globalisation. Governments that have failed in the proper maintenance of mills and factories must ditch those now. Huge lay-off has been resulted by this globalisation centric government policy.

Huge industrial development has taken place after the industrial revolutions in England. Developed countries are polluting the environment of the world. They are using the poorer countries as the dumping grounds of reconditioned materials and industrial wastes. Japan has little agricultural product. But through industrial development, it has reached a leading position in the world.

While this goes on, war becomes a commonplace in this century. One country is against another. In the present situation, might is considered as the right. Devastating weapons are used against mankind. Recently we have seen an example of this. Iraq has almost become a desert. America used innumerable arms and ammunition against the hapless people of Iraq. Political polarisation, mutual misunderstanding, differences in caste, colour, sex, religion and ethnicity are dividing the world. Friendship,

trust and understanding are absent among the countries.

Cancer, AIDS, SARS and many other diseases are yet to be cured by medicine. Medical science has to be improved to such an extent that people will not die for want of medication. These are the challenges of this century. Poverty, hunger and war have to be removed from this world. Developed countries should take proper measures to uproot these crises. Still now many people die from malnutrition and curable diseases.

It kindles hope that many countries are adopting democratic mode of governance. They are rejecting monarchy, socialism or communism. Through economic development, the world scenario is going to be changed very soon. As I have already told that mechanical advancement has radically changed human life and activity, people are getting accustomed to doing everything through machines. Modern office can not be imagined without computer.

Time has come to realise and upgrade the standard of living of the people of the world by freeing the mankind from hunger, poverty and malnutrition. These are the challenges of this century. The earlier we ponder over this, the faster we will be able to cope up with the challenges we face.

**Mohammad Kamal Uddin**  
Assistant Controller of Examination,  
IBAIS University

Ershad and Organogram

Referring to the letter of Md. Saque Hossain "Organogram: How the word came?" (September 16), I cannot say "how the word came"; but can safely vouch for the fact that this word was first widely used during president Ershad's regime. Immediately after he took power, the general formed the famous "Enam Committee" to study the organisational structures of various ministries, departments, directorates and offices of the government. At that time, I really came across the word.

**DR Shaheed**  
SOHS (old)  
Dhaka

Truth must come out of Hutton inquiry?

Hearings of the Hutton Inquiry concluded with the Queen's Counsels making their closing statements. Anyone following the proceedings cannot but be struck by the layers of lies and deceptions that were peeled; disgusted too by the indecent way David Kelly, a civil servant of such a high standing, was used by the government he served, in its fight with the BBC.

Even more astounding is the persistent denial by the government counsel that nothing wrong was done in the Kelly affair or in the Iraq war. Such is the level of decay, such is the extent of deception the spinners of evidence have come up with. Government of Mr. Blair has lost the ability to introspect and accept mistakes with humility; lost its respect for public opinion and even its respect for decency and human sensitivity. The way Dr. Kelly and his family have been treated should make any civil servant squirm in anguish.

Mr. Blair, notwithstanding all the technical nuances and stubborn defiance by the government counsel, has no alternative but to take full responsibility for all the misdeeds of some members in his government. The inquiry revealed he has been personally involved in some of the decisions that were taken. No wonder British public opinion lost trust in him and not surprising that liberal democrats won the latest by-election in the UK.

Even those awedly loyal to Mr. Blair will admit he no more can afford to stand "shoulder to shoulder" with his mentor George Bush in any future coalition, even though Secretary Straw valiantly told the UN General Assembly that the Coalition will not flinch in Iraq. Secretary Straw with nearly straight face told the UN General Assembly tonight how keen the Coalition was to allow "self rule" to Iraq, glibly suggesting to leaders of the world how unwise it would be to return the stolen sovereignty back to the Iraqi people before they are ready.

The Hutton inquiry ended with a terrible "exposure" that will shame even to the most shameless. Lord Hutton no doubt will dutifully write his report by December 2003. But will that be the end of this affair? Is the end only the beginning of a deeper and broader inquiry to follow? An inquiry that will probe into the serial deceptions, hypes, manipulations, and spinning -- all of these crafted to make a case for an unnecessary, illegal, and unjust war. The way British Parliament was lied to, to garner votes for war, the sovereignty of Iraq stolen and its people thrown into such misery and suffering need to be exposed to restore faith in the British democracy.

This much must be said of British democracy. And, with few warts in its face, it is still in its best tradition and does reassert itself at the end of the day. We expect therefore a deeper and broader inquiry, preferably nothing less than a judicial inquiry, as per the wish of the British public. Calumny and conceit must have limits. If and when they sur-

Nation pays for mistakes by few

The government decision earlier to re-open four jute mills that were earmarked for privatisation is quite a U-turn indeed. We observed a successful implementation of a bold (though belated) decision when government closed down the Adamjee Jute Mills despite the apprehension of wide-spread reactions from vested quarters. We certainly felt an emotional loss with the closure of Adamjee.

But we as a nation did not have any other choice. The close-down was a culmination of years of corruption, inefficiency and bad bureaucracy. The people who were involved in running the affairs of the Adamjee are to be held responsible for its closure. The same holds true for the four jute mills in question. We as a nation cannot afford to pay for the greed and corruption of few people forever.

It is true that the closing of factories is a painful process for the workers whose very livelihood is pushed out of business. But the government does have adequate compensation package for the displaced workers. And there is always the possibility of regaining employment once those mills start functioning again under private management.

While the private sector jute mills are running profitably, there is no point in letting the government-owned ones to bleed scarce public resources when there is scope for improving their performances under private management. Then why should the government allow a privileged few to get richer through corruption and mismanagement at the expense of greater national interest?

Our Finance Minister knows it more than anyone else that the very concept of public involvement in running commercial enterprises is an obsolete idea in today's world. Why then this reversal of policy? The vested interests of a few cannot take precedence over the greater national interest. The earlier the government realises this and takes the courage to withdraw itself from commercial ventures and removes obstacles for the market forces to operate properly, the better it is for the country.

**K M Zubair Sadeque**  
Duquesne University  
Pittsburgh, USA



Victims of a just decision?

pass limits, an exposure must follow.  
**Dr. Zakir Husain**  
One-mail

Teachers' scandal in BUET

My attention has been drawn to Engr. ABM Nurul Islam's letter "Decay in BUET", DS 24 Sep, 2003 in response to my letter "Forgery", DS 21 Sep, 2003.

Nowhere in my letter did I claim of knowing more than the syndicate. In fact, my knowledge on this issue is totally based on different newspaper reports. At least five national newspapers, including The Daily Star, found this item suitable for coverage. All the reports confirm that the accused teachers were found guilty and were charged by an enquiry committee. There were no rejoinders from the affected teachers. So, it is logical to conclude that the reports were indeed accurate.

Surely the enquiry report was placed before the syndicate to help decide the range of punishment to the guilty teachers who resorted to fraudulent practices. That's how the offenders escaped with nominal penalty. The teachers submitted forged papers based upon false information to gain eligibility for professorship. Since they have not fulfilled the criteria and are not qualified to be professors, their appointments need to be scrapped.

This is the minimum the BUET authorities can do. As a BUET alumnus like Engr. Islam, I have reasons to be concerned. BUET Teachers' Association has also taken up this serious matter and has demanded just punishment to the swindlers. I take this opportunity once again to request the vice chancellor of the BUET to refer the issue back to the syndicate for a thorough review and appropriate decision.

**Khalid Hasan**  
Grand Terrace, New Eskaton  
Dhaka

Can we govern ourselves?

What a news! To quote DS of 26-Sep: "The government yesterday filed a petition with the Appellate Division seeking for the 15" time extension of a deadline by four months for the ... separation of the judiciary from the executive". May be, our children will witness the golden jubilee of such an extension! I am compelled to ask. "Are we really a nation capable of governing ourselves?"

**CNR**  
Chittagong

Plant Quarantine or trap for bribery!

Anyone passing through the arrival hall of the International Terminal building of the ZIA cannot miss the large signboard adjacent to the customs counter with a special footnote "please examine your plant and plant materials such as fruits, flowers, spices etc through this counter". One will find some uniformed staff of the plant Quarantine section and mistake them to be Customs Officer because of the stark similarity of the uniform. Therein lies the tricks of the trade.

Ordinary passengers returning home from abroad usually bring very small amount of spices and fruits, and this is chiefly for their personal consumption. Hardly anyone imports plants and seeds into the country. The quarantine staff intercept and direct the innocent and ordinary, mostly illiterate travellers, to their counter and

exploit them in their own way. Out of fear and confusion the passengers have to dole out their foreign currency. This is very painful.

The title of the board is not compatible with the footnote and obviously it was done with a motive in mind. I do travel a lot but at no airport I have seen the Plant Quarantine counter so prominently displayed. In other countries, presence of Plant Quarantine staff is hardly noticeable and they only come forward when so required by the passengers and that too only for examining the imported plants and seeds.

We all know the state of affairs in our market. No one is there to check rotten foodstuff being sold openly in the markets. Even smelling unwholesome fish from the dirty and stinky water is being openly sold. In contrast to this, no shopkeeper would dare selling foodstuff not fit for consumption, in other countries.

What purpose it serves to the nation by detaining the travellers on the plea of examining their small amounts of fruits and spices? This is absolutely unnecessary and should be stopped forthwith. Plant Quarantine should only be there in true sense, like those in any other country. We are known for our corruption and to exploit the innocent travellers, Plant Quarantine counter has been established in our own way at

the airport.  
And, the uniform of the staff must be changed. By changing the rules at least we can eliminate one step of corruption and harassment of our passengers and give some relief to our people. Our political leaders should take their lessons from other developing nations and introduce what is necessary for the benefit of the country. Please allow the citizens to feel free and enjoy their freedom. Allow them to take home their edibles without any hassle at the point of entry to the nation.

I draw the attention of the agriculture minister and earnestly request him to review the establishment of our Plant Quarantine counter at the airport. Air travellers, after long overnight journey, deserve it.

**An onlooker**  
East Shewrapara, Mirpur  
Dhaka

Thanks to National Geographic

On September 18, 2003, I saw a documentary on the Royal Bengal Tiger of Bangladesh on National Geographic. The members of that channel spent several months for the shooting of the film. I felt proud when I heard that "The tiger population are flourishing in the Sundarbans in Bangladesh". The

people of Bangladesh are now understanding the importance of conservation of wild life. We all should work together to make Bangladesh a safe heaven for both mankind and the animal. Thanks to the department of forestry and environment and thanks to the National Geographic.

**Rakish**  
Dept. of EEE, BUET  
Dhaka

Thank you, Mr. Editor

I am delighted to read the commentary "BNP reaping what it sowed" by Mahfuz Anam in your esteemed daily on 23rd Sept. It was well written and had depth in it. I wonder how many people have the guts to speak the truth.

Cheers for Mahfuz Anam and thank you.

All the people of Bangladesh deserve to know the message contained in the commentary. I wish this was translated in Bangla and published in several maximum circulated vernacular newspapers like the Ittefaq, Prothom Alo, etc. to allow maximum people to know the true situation prevailing in the country. Only the English knowing people read English newspapers, who are a minority.  
**Jamshed Taher**

"Sex education at schools"



Sex-education worldwide

I wholeheartedly support Dr. Rahim's proposal about educating our young generation on sex, ("Sex Education at Schools", Daily Star, 26 Sep 2003). I suggest we begin to discuss sex at grade six, which is generally the budding time for kids' curiosity about human body. This novel step is necessary not only to raise alertness about sexually transmitted diseases (STD), but also as a positive initiative to eradicate a wide range of misconceptions prevalent in our country about human sexuality.

Since most are too shy to discuss it and have been conditioned since childhood to consider sex as a taboo for discourse, we remain ignorant of physiological and psychological aspects of this natural, human phenomenon.

Our collective ignorance results in multifaceted problems, i.e. superstitions, psychosomatic disorders in couple-relationships -- not to mention the malpractice and exploitation by pseudoscientific treatment facilities. Moreover, any social scientist would agree that suppression of true and healthy sex education will cause insecurity and phobia among pubescent boys and girls (when they become very sensitive about the changes their bodies go through).

If implemented, introduction of sex-education will create a knowledgeable generation of well-prepared parents and families. Parents should know about sexual complications, and related psychosomatic issues, so that they can guide the children in advance. It's helpful for their personal relationships as well. Many couples remain unhappy throughout their lifetime, which often

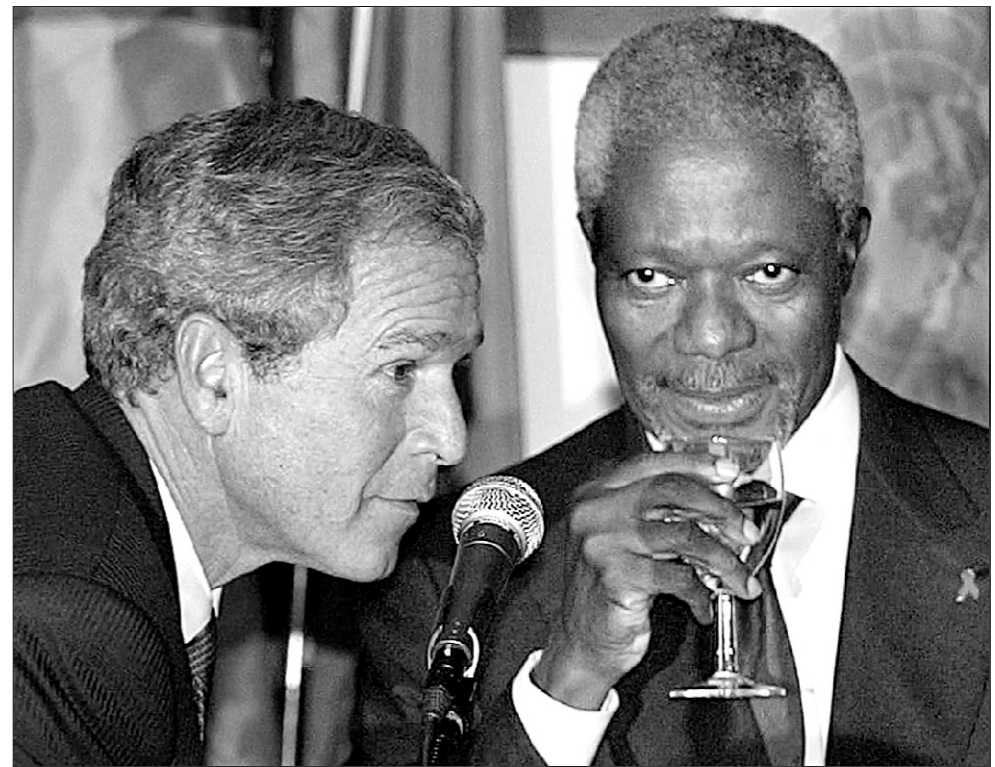
originates in the lack of physical intimacy. And if a therapist looks deeply, he (or she) is very likely to find the cause of their physical distance rooted in early childhood complexes, created by false or misguiding ideas about male/female sexuality.

I remember my own adolescent period as a horrible and painful one. None of my parents had the courage or confidence to discuss sexuality freely with me. Like many other traditional societies, my knowledge of sex came from neighbours' kids and other unreliable sources, and occasionally through some unhealthy practices (let's keep it a secret from the readers, smile!).

For example, wet dream is a normal sign of young male's crossing the border of puberty. Unfortunately, many think it's a disease, a sign of devil's possession of one's soul etc. etc. Even, many think it's a symptom of gonorrhoea as my mother thought in my case. I will never forget the sense of insecurity and inferiority that suspicion caused. Of course, like millions, my mother did not know better.

If we all grow up accepting sexuality as a part of our humanness and respect it as an integral part of our life, it will serve us well -- in terms of physical, emotional and social health.

Dr. Rahim's proposal could not have come in a better time. The question is, will our policymakers be bold and visionary enough to take the initiative?  
**Tirtho Mahmood**  
Albany, CA, USA



UN-necessary Organisation!