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.

Liberation war and young generation

PHOTO: AFP

The other day I was just wondering why could we not promote the creation of an animated cartoon or a video game regarding our country's liberation war.

Many scholars and respected citizens have accused our young generation of not knowing significant things regarding the war against the Pakistani military force. I think they have made the right comment.

Since independence, a lot of movies and dramas have been made on the 1971 war which have attracted most of the people towards the history of liberation war but a large portion of the new generation do not know much about the war. Any way, I do not want to go for further debate regarding this matter. However, there is still a ray of hope for us interested in informing the young generation about the true story of liberation war. We can develop animated cartoons or video games, as it will not only let the young generation to learn about it, it will also create awareness about how the birth of our nation took place. Besides, it will also take the young generation to a new level of patriotism -- a quality that many of our politicians lack!

I have no doubt in our game developer's capability and I feel the people of Bangladesh will greatly appreciate it.

Fahim Wasef
New Eskaton, Dhaka

Organising sports

Sports today have become highly competitive and professional, besides becoming a highly profitable business. To bring laurels for the country we need professionals to handle our sports in a professional manner. Sports today are a multi million-dollar business. Our sports can be developed from our earnings from the sector itself. All that we need is dedicated and efficient sports organisers having a professional outlook and vision.

Let us first take the case of Football. Our organisers feel that they have done their job by appointing a good coach. The coach has to be given all the support he needs including suggestions in the light of realities of this country. It is said that, "You cannot teach a new technique to an old horse.

" Ignoring this dictum they tried to use the old horses to salvage our status as a football loving nation. We need to have under 19, under 22 and under 25 national teams. These three teams under three different coaches could play against each other on a regular basis and from these teams the national team could be formed and placed at the disposal of the national coach. The national team should tour the neighbouring countries and participate in tournaments abroad. Football at club level and regional level also requires attention. Sportsmen are to be well looked after if we want them to give their best. Professionalism in club football has to start now.

Now let us take the case of cricket. This is some what better organised compared to other sports but the longer version of the game and ODI are different ball games altogether and we require to have two separate national teams. This is particularly true about the batsmen. The all-rounders should be included in both Test and ODI teams. Unless we have a team of batsman with Test match playing temperament we can never win Test matches. Batsman of our Test team must only play the longer version of the game, similarly the specialist batsman of the ODI team must only play in limited over matches. Batsman who play too many ODIs cannot maintain the temperament required for playing Test matches.

Field Hockey is another game in which we can achieve the international standard within a very short period of time. Our hockey has been messed up by the mismanagement of our hockey officials. It requires outstanding organisers to manage this discipline.

Swimming, diving, shooting, boxing, weightlifting and wrestling are few other sports in which we can do well and bring laurels for the country, provided we approach these games in a professional manner.

Our sports ministry has to organise itself first and give required support and leadership to the sports bodies starting at school level.

We would like our government to take sports more seriously. Australia is one country that approaches its sporting activities in a highly professional manner. It has paid them dividends. We have a lot to learn from Australia and China. We can take the help and assistance of Australia in organising out sporting activities. Sports are quite efficiently managed in Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

Salahuddin Ahmad
Dhanmondi, Dhaka

Frequent power failure

In the past we did not have any experience of such frequent power failure like the present power crisis in Bangladesh.

During the last few months it has become a common practice to keep the Dhaka city dark for a few hours at a stretch by the power suppliers-- Desa/Desco. The sufferings of the people of the city knows no bounds. The abnormal and frequent power failure is damaging the costly electronic goods such as television, freeze etc.

But what is the power ministry doing? The poor farmers in the rural areas have to depend on electricity for irrigation. But the minister has said that the problem won't be solved if he resigns! True, but he has to do something since words alone cannot help us.

Peerzada Syed Rofiqul Hussain
Hiala Shaheb Bari, Habigonj

Naushad

Naushad Saab (Ali), the last surviving giant of perfect Hindustani film songs, has finally left us for heavenly abode after a brief illness. But what a pity!! News media in the subcontinent carried news of his passing with information unheard of. Regretfully, the feature on him "The haunting tunes of Naushad" in your daily (May 12, 2006) seems to have been based on such information, and the writer then added a bit of his own to give a consolidated package!!

The writer mentions "Mahal" as one of Naushad's Saab's movies which is actually Guruji's (Khemchand Prakash). Who can forget the song "Aayega Aayega Aayega Aanewala Aayega" from Mahal. Khemchand Prakash was Naushad's mentor. "Kahin Deep Jaale Kahin Dill" as the "Mahal" song mentioned by the writer was composed by Hemant Kumar for the film "Bees Saal Baad". Any serious film music fan would know that the styles of Khemchand Prakash, Naushad and Hemant Kumar were poles apart from each other for one to be confused of.

Again, Pakeeza songs have been credited to Naushad Saab. Partly true. The songs stated were all composed by Ghulam Mohammad!!! Naushad Saab composed four pieces for Pakeeza, "Nazariya Ki Mari" by Raj Kumari, "Kaun Gali" by Parvin Sultana, "More Sajan' by Vani Jairam and an Alap by Lata Mangeshkar. Furthermore, Laxmikant and Pyarellal were not Naushad Saab's contemporary. To be precise "musically" they were 24 years junior to him!!!

But then why blame this writer only? The prestigious NDTV 24x7, covered him with the evergreen classic from Anarkali "Ei Zindagi Usiki Hai", a 1953 C Ramchandra composition!! And ETV Bangla India played Ghulam Mohammad's "Chalte Chalte" from Pakeeza for the same news!!! In this world of "remixes", this could only be expected and perhaps Naushad Saab could stand it no more. With pain he crossed the border sobbing "Jab Dil Hi Toot Gaya Hum Ji Ke Kya Karengey", or for that matter "Mohe Bhool Gaye Sawariya".

H Q Chowdhury
Baridhara, Dhaka

Be optimistic!

We see many articles, write-ups and letters from different sections of society that are not at all a good sign for a nation. It appears that some of us have put their hands up and reached a stage, which is full of frustration. One has to be optimistic in his personal life as well as collective life. If there is dark cloud on the horizon, can we not find the silver lining? It is nothing but natural that a nascent nation will have to pass through different ups and downs before it can reach its cherished goals.

There are many good things in us and we can be proud of many achievements that the country has made. Instead of looking for the dark and grey areas we should look for the bright side of the nation. The first and foremost thing that we can be proud of is that we are an independent country and we have a flag of our own. If we can instil this pride in our people, I think most of our frustrations will be over.

For this we have to widen our knowledge base, come out of the shell and the reasoning should be based on facts, not emotions.

I am sure the day is not far away when we will have our seat of honour in the comity of nations. Cheer up!

Commodore AMA Alam (Retd.) BN
New DOHS, Dhaka

Bangladesh came into existence through a long struggle and supreme sacrifice of her heroic sons and great souls. Therefore, we have a long history of undaunted efforts towards achieving independence from the tyrannical dictators of Pakistan. History of independence around the world shows that the movements for freedom are always deeply attached to the aspirations of freedom-loving mass people and these movements are pivoted on charismatic and dynamic leadership. History never halts and always maintains its motion in an unending manner from which people get many things to learn. Unfortunately, many of us are not following the normal course of historical truths, rather we are busy distorting our own history.

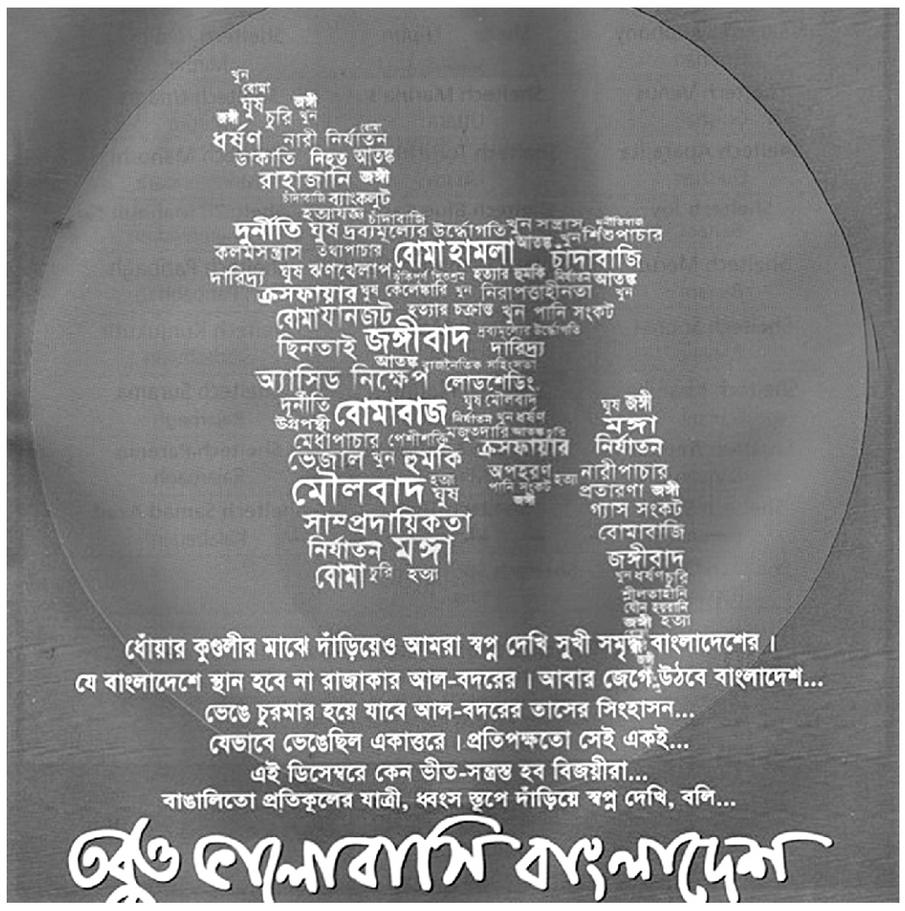
I was astonished at the comment of the new envoy of the US to

Bangladesh during her recent visit to the Bangabandhu

Bhaban and Late president Zia's mazar. She termed both Bangabandhu and Zia as " architects of Bangladesh's independence".

In my view, they had totally different roles that could not be equated with each other.

Wasi, *Dhaka City College*



Power crisis

Everybody will admit that we do not produce as much electricity as we need. But whatever we have got, are we using it properly? If you look at it you will see some people are wasting a lot of electricity but some are not getting any to use when they need. In my opinion, we need proper management for optimum use of the electricity we have got. Here I am suggesting some measures, which can be considered to manage consumption.

First of all, create awareness through media so that everybody stops wasting electricity like keeping lights on unnecessarily.

Second, Ban lighting in wedding or any ceremony.

Third, introduce two weekly holidays everywhere like govt. offices. Most of the countries in the world have such arrangement.

Prioritise supply according to consumers' needs, for example, factories need it during daytime. Set up prepaid metres instead of post-paid metres. Close all shopping centres after 7 o'clock. Privatise supply of electricity.

Take necessary steps to make solar power generation popular as Bangladesh is a sunny country. And get rid of corruption.

Finally, increase production to meet the demand of the huge population of our country.

Mainul Quadery
West Bakalia, Chittagong

Myanmar gas pipeline

If it is not too late already we should think before finally saying no to this pipeline project to India through our territory. We should include a condition of buying gas for our own consumption using the same pipeline, if and when needed.

Even if India in return does not consider the facilities desired by us now, after the gas pipeline starts to benefit them they should have a sense of gratitude during future negotiations. As of now, we should insist on inclusion of a clause of rent (of land to be used by the pipeline) review from time to time.

This consideration comes together with the thought of Tata's proposed investment. The major concern over Tata's appearance is the fast depletion of gas reserves. This may be unfounded as there are other prospective fields, which are yet to be explored. Our gas will always be an attraction for investors. Our asset is the large workforce. The value of this can be assessed from the fact that our 2 main foreign exchange sources are foreign remittance (by workers abroad) and RMG (dependant on manual labour). Employers abroad prefer our semi-skilled workers, as they are hard working, disciplined, intelligent and fast-learners. Employers everywhere will always prefer using the same workforce at the point of origin. I am sure investors will like to set-up urea and other plants in Bangladesh to use Myanmar gas. However, this scenario will be possible if we can induce Tata to invest here without jeopardising our national interest.

MAH, *On e-mail*

Tata's investment

People of Bangladesh should not be fooled by the " Fantastic offer of investment made by Tata". With energy prices sky rocketing how can our Energy Advisor and Finance Minister even consider this offer?

Tata can only be allowed to come if they are ready to pay a variable gas price. Every year it must adjust the price of gas as per the international market. Only then will the investment be fair and equitable for Bangladesh.

Mamun, *On e-mail*

Our political parties

Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman formed the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) with the Bangladeshi Ideology. It is neither a fundamentalist nor secular party. It is liberal and moderate.

H.M. Ershad ruled the country for nearly nine years. During his rule he tried his best to destroy the BNP, but failed . In fact, it is his party which is divided into many groups now. After becoming the chairperson of the party Khaleda Zia not only strengthened it, under her leadership the BNP won the 1991 and 2001 elections.

After then what happened? When the Jamaat-e-Islami became the partner of the BNP the party began to lose its character. It is showing its weakness towards Jamaat. Moreover, the party is surrounded and controlled by some sycophants, corrupt and incompetent leaders and activists.

When will the top BNP leaders realise it?

Iqbal Ahmed
New Eskaton, Dhaka

Draft voter list

Justice M.A. Aziz has finally managed to put the last nail on the coffin of his credibility as Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) by publishing a new draft voter list suspected of having more than a crore ghost voters in the list. Only the other day the CEC, while delivering a speech in the luncheon meeting of the American Chamber of Commerce, mentioned that the last voter list (2000) was flawed. It had registered more than 60 lakh fake voters.

If the one of 2000 was flawed, this one is doubly flawed, says the critics and analysts. The total number of voters registered this time is about 9 crore 13 lakh which is 1 crore 65 lakh higher than the one prepared in the year 2000, thereby showing a growth of voters by 4.8 per cent. This is, according to country's statistical experts, absurd. A 4.8 per cent growth of voters against a population growth rate of 1.58, registering 63 per cent of our total population as voter and still a large number of voters (some estimates suggest 50 lakh) including some sitting MPs of the opposition bench missing from the list, is a riddle probably nobody can solve.

The CEC went for this new voter list at a cost of Tk. 160 crore, defying the directives of the High Court and ignoring the opinion of his two colleagues. Immediately after assumption of his office as CEC he called for a dialogue with the political parties to discuss about preparation of a new voter list. When the main opposition parties did not subscribe to his ideas and refused to participate in the dialogue, he invited some 100 political parties many of whose names were never heard of by the public and some even could not tell their official address. When asked by the media, what was the use of this dialogue when the main opposition party the Awami League was not attending it, he sarcastically told them that it did not matter if a party with only 56 seats in the parliament did not participate in the dialogue.

So, what service can he render to the nation?

Capt. Husain Imam
Paribag, Dhaka

Please stop it!

A few days ago, when I was walking in the road I noticed a peaceful procession crossing the Paltan police box. Suddenly, without any provocation, some of them started to attack cars and buses randomly and broke them at their sweet will. I was dumbfounded to see such mindless destruction. The policemen were standing beside and watching this horrendous scene silently! And within ten minutes the agitators damaged scores of vehicles and injured many innocent commuters. I am sure if the police had intervened timely many vehicles could have been saved but I don't know why they were standing mutely!

I think such destructive activities should not go unpunished. Severe punishment should be meted out to such offenders. We must stop this kind of self destructive activities.

Mohammed Sohel Hara
Topkhana ***Road, Dhaka***