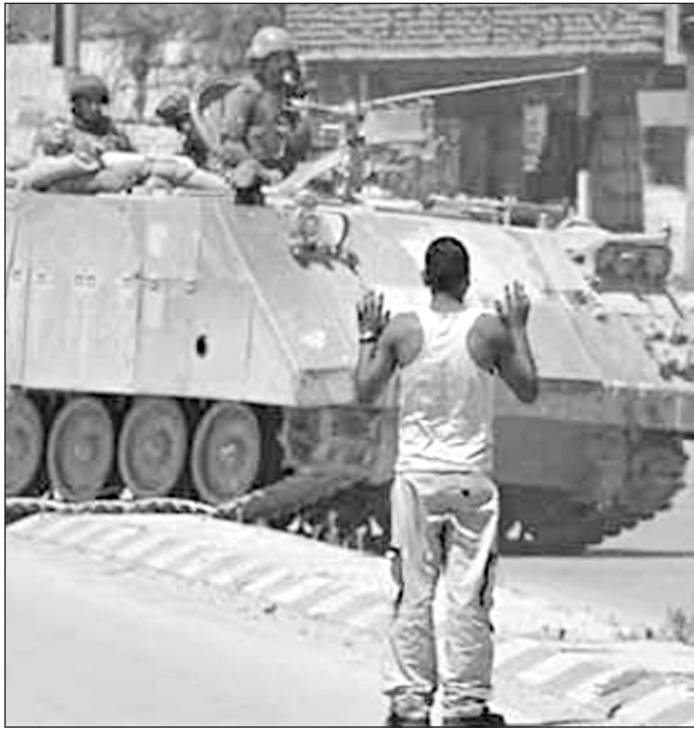


Letters will only be considered if they carry the writer's full name, address and telephone number (if any). The identity of the writers will be protected. Letters must be limited to 300 words. All letters will be subject to editing.

Muslim world, US & Israel



I disagree with Shadman's statement, "...every time there is a ceasefire in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the Palestinians have to mess it up. And yes every single time." (Letter, 24 July) Take the latest violence, for example. Everyone believes that the latest violence started after Hezbollah kidnapped two Israeli soldiers. This is not true. Before the current violence started, there was a ceasefire. Hamas agreed to that ceasefire and there was quite a long period of calm and no suicide bombing. And then, guess what happened? Last month, our "vic-

tim" Israel, decided to wipe out seven members of a Palestinian family (including three children) on a Gaza beach. Four days later, nine more civilians were killed by Israeli missile strikes in Gaza. Should we now blame the Palestinians for braking the truce? This is not the first time; Israel has done it many times before but media only reports the ugly reactions from the Palestinians, not the provocations. Before we accuse the Palestinians for messing up ceasefires, we need to see who benefits more from the violence.

Whenever there is violence, Hamas and the Palestinians incur heavy losses, many die or get arrested and locked away in Israeli prisons for years. But Israel gets another excuse to grab land and to kill more. That is why every time there is a truce, it is Israel that breaks the truce by killing some Palestinians by firing missiles, by raiding houses, by putting up barriers or grabbing more land. And those two Israeli soldiers that Hezbollah kidnapped, they didn't kidnap them for money or land. They simply wanted to exchange them with people Israel kid-

napped before and has been keeping in prisons without trial. Who is really responsible for the latest violence? Despite keeping track of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict for the last six years, it seems Shadman has missed the details of how the latest violence started. **Azad Miah**
Oldham, UK

I beg to differ with Shadman's comment about Hizb'Allah (Hezbollah) being a "terrorist organisation", which is nothing but Zionist and neo-conservative

propaganda. Hizb'Allah came to existence as a direct result of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and referring to them as terrorists is the same as referring to the Mukti Bahini as terrorists. F. H. Rana correctly pointed out that in 1971, we stood alone - while the entire Muslim world, which was convinced by the Pakistanis that they were fighting against a Hindu conspiracy, remained silent. In recent years, there have been a number of occasions where Hizb'Allah have kidnapped Israeli soldiers, most noticeably an Israeli reservist Colonel, all of whom were exchanged for prisoners languishing in Israeli jails where thousands of Lebanese and Palestinians still remain with no chance of reprieve. The Muslim world, in particular the Arabs, are in an ideal position to put an immediate stop to supplies of oil and use this natural resource to shape Middle Eastern policy. Of course, much to our frustration, countries such as Saudi Arabia say and do nothing. Why? Essentially, they have their own concerns and 'need' the US to protect them and keep the Royal House of Saud in power. If US support disappears, the Zionist state, the House of Saud, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and a number of others will all cease to exist. Instead of looking at the larger picture, leaders of Arab/Muslim countries are more interested in protecting their own hides. This is probably the most distinguishing factor, which separates Jews from Muslims.

Abdul M. Ismail
On e-mail

What is Israel's plan ?

Israel's invasion of Lebanon, killing thousands of innocents, is but the sequel to criminality that the country has been practicing since its illegal inception.

Experts fear the fact that the recent attacks are a prelude to the designed short ranged nuclear attacks on Iran which is reportedly pursuing a nuclear capability in the region. Israel is provoking both Iran and Syria to get into the war this or that way.

Regrettably, the United States is not coming up with measures to stop Israeli brutality. **Rafiqul Islam Rime**
Agrabad, Chittagong

Indo-Bangla relations

I would like to protest the letter of Mr. Kashi Vishwanath published in your daily on 25.07.06. Mr. Viswanath has tried to justify the atrocities perpetrated by the BSF. He has basically tried to malign us as a nation which seems to look up to India for sustenance. Let me clarify certain points. Mr. Viswanath. Do you think the Bangladesh government encourages smuggling of cattle to feed its citizens? Sorry, we can produce that at a much higher rate than you can imagine. Because we know for sure that smuggled products are not a permanent solution and that is why lots of local firms have off late rather denied your monopoly in this market. I don't deny it was there, but it existed because those used to be smuggled for a much higher price than they would get in India. And you know border trade (smuggling) was the only conduit for many of your citizens to lay hand on dream items, which were available in plethora in our country but unavailable to you, because of your central policy. So why blame us only?

About illegal migration let me ask you a question, why people should migrate to India? India does not offer an affluent life like the US, UK and the Middle East do. **Manna Chowdhury**
On e-mail



12x3



Wrong turn of vehicles

An interesting photograph published on page 20 of your daily on 14 July 2006 drew my attention. Thanks to the highly skilled and witty photographer.

The photo showed that two jeeps (one used by a minister and the user of the other is not mentioned) were about to collide head-on. The caption described that one of the jeeps took a wrong turn. Here I would like to say something about wrong turns of the motorised and non-motorised vehicles on the roads of the capital city. Noticeable measures have been taken to reduce traffic congestion in many places. But the drivers are, because of the absence of enforcement of traffic rules, reckless in taking turns for their own interest, causing immense trouble to others. There are many reasons for traffic jam on the roads. In my view, and many will agree with me, illegal turns often cause blockade on the roads. The traffic department of the Metropolitan Police has taken a few measures in some places

blocking the U turns on the roads. May be it is working a little. But the major task, I think, is to compel the reckless drivers to abide by the traffic rules. The best way is to note the number of the vehicle and file a case against the driver mentioning the cause. When the owner will be notified that for the illegal turn he has to face a case then the number of such turns, hopefully, will gradually diminish. **MA Matin**
Trishal, Mymensingh

Load-shedding

Electricity is a major driving force behind today's economy of Bangladesh. Bangladesh earns a lot of foreign exchange exporting garments and garments are the backbone of the national income of Bangladesh. Similarly, other industries are also dependent on electricity. So load-shedding has to be eliminated to ensure uninterrupted supply of electricity to the engines of growth and development. **Mosfaca Nur A Parash**
Chittagong

Listing of voters

It was pretty good news that finally the unbending CEC caved in, and the voter list is going to be prepared afresh. This time at least the people engaged for the purpose are expected to do their job honestly and without any fear or favour to give us a list of genuine voters. We don't want to see them going from door to door accompanied by party activists as we witnessed the last time.

The assigned men/women must be well briefed and instructed by CEC's office to be careful about one thing to ask the young boys and girls, who look eligible to be listed, whether they attend schools or madrassahs and/or they had sat for this year's SSC or equivalent madrassah examinations. Since they are usually assumed to be below 16 or at 16 they cannot be voters and listed as such. It was to my great surprise I found that many of my acquaintances' young sons and daughters who were SSC candidates this year were listed as voters and the same was perhaps done throughout the country including madrassah students and examinees. It was also learnt that garment workers, especially females below 18, were listed. So the number of voters rose by one crore.

In this connection it would be worth mentioning that this year, as per government decision, the government colleges and those receiving govt. grants did not accept the SSC passed students aged 15 for admission into HSC course even with GPA-5 and they also were deprived of their scholarships. So to enlist as voters the workers must ask the young boys/girls desiring to be voters, out of joviality, pertinent questions and also want to see school papers confirming the date of birth to elicit the truth whether they are adults or not.

Please do the job honestly and fearlessly and give the nation a flawless, reliable voter list without fake voters. **A. H. Dewan**
South Kafrul, Dhaka Cantt., Dhaka

15x3