

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.

# Israel issue



PHOTOS: AFP

This is a response to the letter written by Mr. Oniel Osman on this topic. I am utterly disgusted to see his vehement support for the terrorist state of Israel. Mr. Osman, your comparison between Bangladesh and Israel is absolutely absurd. We drove out the Pakistanis because they were the illegitimate occupiers of our lands. Similarly, the Israelis are the illegal occupants of Palestinian lands and hence Israel is an illegitimate state. Your suggestion that the Muslim countries maintain diplomatic ties with

Israel shows that you want them to remain subservient 'servants' of the US and Israel and accept them as our 'masters', despite all their misdeeds and atrocities. You do not want the Muslim countries to support Hamas and Hezbollah and their backers, indicating that you do not want the Muslim countries to help their fellow Muslim brothers to earn back their rights. Mr. Osman, let me remind you that we have a dignity of our own and we do not want to demean this dignity of ours by maintaining ties with an

"Oppressor". Instead of making these suggestions, you should suggest ways to strengthen the Muslim community so that we can collectively help the Palestinians to gain independence. Let me remind you, the Palestinians didn't secure Gaza for maintaining ties with Israel. It was because of a fearless fight that the Palestinians managed to secure Gaza. **Sameer Ahmad Khan Mojlish**  
Dhanmondi, Dhaka

on eucalyptus plantation. Now it is banned! Now, the Forest Department is trying to popularise Acacia and Rubber plantation. Already, large tracts of Acacia and Rubber plantation have been raised. Although Acacia is a fast growing plant with wide range of PH acceptability but this species is pollen allergic. Birds don't make nests on such plants. But monoculture of this species is still going on. By practicing monoculture, we are losing our valuable biodiversity and breaking the sustainability of nature. Nowadays environmentalists are fighting against monoculture. But the Forest Department is promoting rubber plantation by destroying our indigenous species. Another thing is that there is no provision for wildlife in rubber plantation.

About 167 indigenous plant species are under threat and will become extinct if nothing is done to protect them. It's our responsibility to save our indigenous plants and make our environment sustainable.

**Shamim Ahmad**  
Institute of Forestry & Environmental Sciences,  
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Chittagong

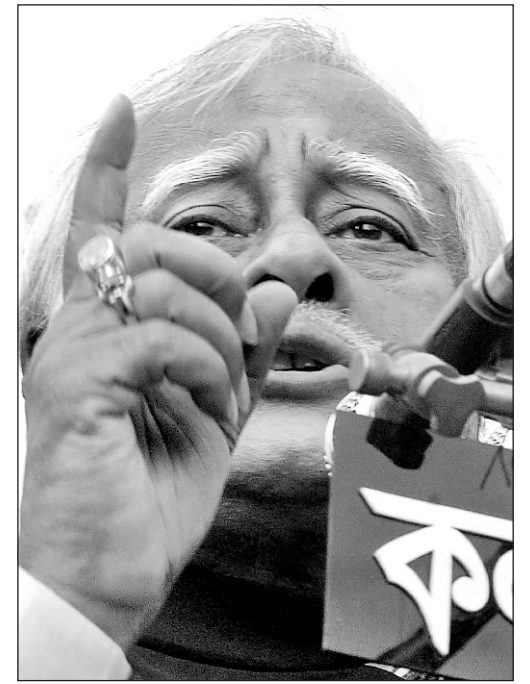
## Poor transportation facilities

Prices of all commodities are going up as transportation remains a major problem.

Where are the politicians and where is the government watchdog which would monitor the market? Is the lower middle class of society destined to pay the price? I am sure the situation is the same everywhere, with each and every item in the market. But the bitter truth is, the producers/farmers are not getting the real price. Even some are struggling to recover the costs.

Can the Bangladesh Railway play any role here? So far I know the railway does not pay any toll to anybody. It can carry cargo very conveniently to different places of the country. Maybe it would require some rescheduling of trains and some booking booths. Still, it can help solve the transportation problem of many perishable items.

**Parvez**  
On e-mail



# Awami League politics

Although the Awami League has got a strong organisation and rich history it is not getting desired success in the election politics. There are several reasons behind that. First of all, the Awami League refers to the past all the time. The members of this party always mention they are the only pro-liberation force and they always try to make it a big issue. But the truth is, the new generation is not very keen about the past.

Secondly, the Awami League needs to wash their hands off all the terrorists and godfathers. In their last tenure they had a lot of success but all went in vain because of the

terrorist activities of some of the members. Thirdly, as an opposition party, the Awami League needs to organise constructive programmes instead of destructive programmes. Because nowadays people do not support destructive programmes like strike or seize.

Fourthly, the Awami League has a hostile relationship with the Islamic parties or representative bodies. For that reason they are being branded as an anti-Islamic party.

I think it is time the Awami League went for a self-assessment.  
**Sagar Ahmed**, Dhaka University

# Rice and Lebanese crisis

The US Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, said she was 'deeply concerned' about the Lebanese people and what they are enduring. But her words are meaningless, just like cutting down a tree and watering it. If America really cared for the humanitarian situation in Lebanon, ceasefire would have been effected immediately.

**Nur Jahan**  
Chittagong



## Tree plantation: some questions

In this era of information technology, there is no doubt that everyone is conscious about deforestation and its ill effects on our life. So, nowadays people are very much aware of the importance of planting trees. They are planting trees to make the environment greener. It is the result of positive thinking.

Now, plantation programmes are being run all over the country by individuals, NGOs and the government. But, are we doing the right things in the name of tree plantation? Are we concerned about ecological balance or conserving biodiversity? In the name of tree plantation, we might be disrupting the natural balance and losing our native flora and fauna.

You may be surprised to learn how tree plantation can have a negative impact. Well, everything should be planned in light of our needs. At first, the Bangladesh Forest Department put emphasis

couldn't have become so corrupt, if some people didn't support them so explicitly.

It is a good thing that some eminent citizens speak for constitutional rights of people, electoral reform for free and fair election, transparency, good governance and also against black money, economic disparity etc.

**Roney**, On e-mail

## Corrupt linemen

We are businessmen from Mohakhali new DOHS area and

are facing many problems with telephone lines, which remain cut off frequently, despite regular payment of telephone bills. Whenever we go to the local linemen with our problems they do not pay any attention to the complaints. But they set things right when they are bribed. This has been going on for a long time.

We, therefore, draw the attention of the authorities concerned to take effective steps so that we may get rid of this problem as early as possible.  
**Sumon**, On e-mail

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