

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.

Terrorism, USA and Hezbollah



PHOTO: AFP

For the sake of argument, let us say Hezbollah people are terrorists who are attacking Israelis. May I humbly ask what the USA government then is? Vietnamese observe "Dioxin Victims Day" on August 10 because the US army spread this cancer

causing chemicals in Vietnamese forests and water bodies. Still people are suffering from the effect of that chemical. I have seen one Republican Congressman telling BBC that they gave lethal germs to Saddam for research

(possibly to observe its effect on Non-American Humans). Sanctions on Iraq led to the deaths of 500,000 children. They killed innocent people with cluster bombs. All this was done by the US government, largely under the influence of Israel.

So if Hamas and Hezbollah are terrorists, may I ask what adjective is suitable for the US government?

Dr. Mahboob Hossain
Associate Professor
Department of Pharmacy
The University of Asia Pacific, Dhaka

Bangladeshi troops deployment in Lebanon

I request the Bangladesh govt. not to deploy troops in Lebanon. You can see why the Europeans are reluctant, since there are no clear rules of engagement. Historically, it is Israel who has targeted and hit UN positions without cause, reason or even reprimand afterwards. They have always used the time worn excuse of a mistake. How can it be, when they claim to target with surgical precision? I can only conclude that it is deliberate.

The scenario I foresee is that with Bangladeshi troops in South Lebanon, lightly armed and with basically tied hands are going to be sitting ducks to the Israel artillery and air force. Under the garb of retaliating against Hezbollah, they will not hesitate to hit Bangladeshi UN troops positions and cause massive destruction and death. In this scenario, Bangladesh will have little or no clout for any redress. Given that Bangladesh does not recognise Israel or has any diplomatic rapport, Israel could hit UN posts manned by them.

On top of this, if the UN adopts another resolution to disarm the Hezbollah, then it opens up another scenario where Bangladeshi troops may get embroiled in a battle not at all of their choice.

Given these highly probable adverse scenarios, I do not think it is a judicious or prudent choice to even consider deploying Bangladeshi troops. I do not think Bangladesh is in such desperate need of money to take such unprecedented risks with possible devastating consequences.

A Bangladeshi, USA

of the environment whatever way they can. A small reward can be announced for the best garden, if you really want to draw people's attention.

We must do something to protect the environment. Otherwise, one day we will have to carry our own oxygen tank behind us for breathing freely. Not an amusing proposition!

Rifat Parveen
Chamelibagh, Shantinagar, Dhaka

Islam and South Koreans

This is in reference to Tanzila Nur's letter of Aug 2, 2006, "Islam in South Korea". I found the last part of her letter quite interesting where she wrote "At present a total of 47 Korean students are studying Islam and Arabic language in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Jordan, Turkey, Libya, Malaysia, Indonesia and Pakistan".

It is true that many South Koreans are studying Islamic culture and language in different Arab countries. But there are questions that need to be answered. In my Arabic class at the University of Qatar, there were a number of diligent Korean students among predominantly western non-Muslim students. I started wondering why all these South Koreans?

There was one South Korean named Ibrahim Kim (not his real name to protect his identity). Once our teachers were planning to take us (the Muslim students) to Makkah to perform Hajj and we were all very excited about that. But when I asked Ibrahim if he wanted to join us, his reply was a polite "No".

Then I asked him if he was a Muslim, and guess what his answer was! He smiled and said, "No, I am a Christian."

Then I remembered that I saw some news-heading about South Korean missionaries a while back which I didn't find interesting enough to read at that time. So I started searching the net using the keywords "South Korea Missionary" and got the news items I was looking for, and read them carefully.

I found that according to the New York Times "South Korea has rapidly become the world's second largest source of Christian missionaries" just behind the United States and they are now taking the lead in aggressively evangelising Muslims.

Also, "South Koreans proselytise, not in their own language, but in the language of the country they operate in or in English."

The NY Times also reported that "...many come (to Middle East countries) on student visas or set up computer or other businesses, and evangelise discreetly."

About 30 Christian missionary families have already settled in Amman, Jordan.

It is common for the missionaries to take Arabic version of Biblical names like Yusuf (Joseph) to easily hoodwink Muslims. So the issue is far from simple!

Shukla Mirza
Doha, Qatar



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

August 15 will forever remain one of the darkest days in the history of Bangladesh. On this very day, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with most of his family members were assassinated. Thirty-one years on, we still have not found the justice that this great man and also the entire nation deserves. It is the failure of the justice system of the country that it has not been able to complete the process. Bangabandhu was the Prime Minister and then the President of Bangladesh, but he will forever remain the father of the nation. Some people may disagree with me in this regard, but let us not forget that this man led our country's independence movement. He may not have been the ideal administrator but that does not take away the immense contributions he made towards the country. Let us not compare him with other presidents or prime ministers because his position is unique. It should also be noted here that Bangabandhu did not represent any political party. He represented the great nation of Bangladesh so I urge all concerned to keep him above petty party politics and let history be the judge of this great man.

Sheikh Tanjeb Islam
Monash University

Racism in cricket

Hair is a racist and comes from the same convict country to boot as Dean Jones!

After all, his hair raising activities in the Test cricket arena and taking on Asians exposes his built-in inner racism. One wonders how the ICC persists with him standing in Tests where Asian countries are involved?

The whole ICC approach seems to be beyond logical comprehension.

The best way to keep controversy out of cricket's hair will be to ban Hair from umpiring any competitive cricket match between any teams from ICC countries.

S. A. Mansoor
Gulshan, Dhaka

Congratulations, Iran

It is not new that no European country or the USA wants Iran as a self-dependent country as they want in case of Israel. Apparently the European countries are not bold enough, but tacitly they are supporting the US policy of not allowing Iran to have any kind of nuclear technology through which the state can improve its power sector and will be able to reduce its dependence on other states. If it is so, the EU's grip on the country will be loosened. Iran is an independent state with full sovereignty, though it has been declared by the USA as a 'rogue state' but the US has failed to present any reasonable testimony to defend its claim.

Frankly speaking, every sovereign country has the legal right to have nuclear facilities to use it in a peaceful manner, as we see many European countries, South American country Brazil and Asian countries India and Pakistan are using this

facilities for generating electricity and France producing more than 70% of its total electricity from nuclear technology. So why these countries are so concerned to prevent Iran from using this facility whereas they are completely silent about Israel, which actually is the possessor of nuclear weapons. Such a double standard policy is not conducive to creating a safe world, rather it will embolden the radical groups and the European states will be at risk.

Finally, we appreciate the initiative taken by the Iranian authorities to continue their nuclear activities, ignoring the threats given by the USA and its European allies, which is totally unreasonable.

Anis Rahman
University of Dhaka



TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

News Bulletin

BTV News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm. News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm. News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm. Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm.

CHANNEL-i News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15 am. Teletext of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ATN BANGLA News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11pm. News (English) 8:20am, 7:00pm. Teletext of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

TARA BANGLA News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30pm, 7:30pm. Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm. Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.

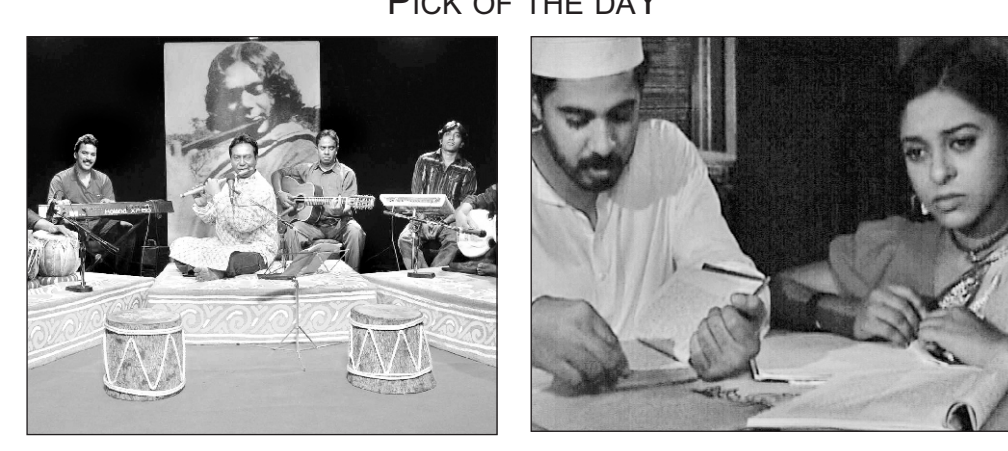
BBC WORLD Every hour on the hour

BTV

08:30 Open University
09:15 Satellite Broadcast
12:05 Shongbadpotrer Pata Thekey
12:30 Maa O Shishur Kotha
01:00 Bansuri
01:30 Mati O Manush
02:15 Amader Shishu
02:40 Cartoon
03:30 Educational Programme On Line
04:00 National TV Debate
06:10 Shubamo Oit
06:40 Special Programme on Nazrul's Death Anniversary
07:30 Special Musical Programme on Nazrul's Death Anniversary
08:35 Protidin Bangladesh
08:45 Special Drama on Nazrul's Death Anniversary: Otripto Kamona
10:25 Teknaf Theke Tetulia
12:05 Public Reaction
09:50 Grameeophone Tritiyo Matra
11:05 Special Musical Programme on Nazrul's Death Anniversary
12:05 Special Programme on Nazrul's Death Anniversary: Tomare Dibona Bhulite
12:30 Aj Dupure O Citycell
12:30 Taroka Kathan
01:05 Talk Show: Kora Alap
01:30 Special Musical Programme on Nazrul's Death Anniversary: Fagun Furabe Jobe
05:30 Bangladesh Feature Film Children's Programme
06:30 Manzir
07:50 Swarone Borone
09:35 Solo Musical programme of Ferdous

12:00 Ara Grameeophone Ajker Shargbadpotrer
12:05 ATN BANGLA
12:30 Anyodishti
12:15 Smritir Monokathay
12:50 Special Programme on Nazrul's Death Anniversary: Amare Dibona Bhulite
01:30 Special Drama on Nazrul's Death Anniversary: Khuki O Katabirali
02:30 Special Programme on Nazrul's Death Anniversary: Udashi Benu
03:10 Special Programme on Nazrul's Death Anniversary: Boner Papiya
04:20 Special Programme on Nazrul's Death Anniversary: Tomari Mhule Tomari Orgho
05:10 Special Programme on Nazrul's Death Anniversary: Ontore Tumi Achho Chirodin
05:45 Islami Sawal O Jobab (Live)
06:25 Three Stooges
08:00 Drama Serial: Khola Duar
08:30 Drama Serial: The New Shobuj Opera
09:00 Drama Serial: Nire Tar Neel Dheu
09:30 Drama Serial: Olot Palot
10:40 Business This Week
08:35 ATN BANGLA
09:05 Ajker Shokal
09:05 Drama Serial: Romizer Aina
09:30 Amra Ekhon Unish Kuri
10:05 Musical Programme: Malobika
10:30 Natoker Gan
11:00 Special Drama: Duranta

PICK OF THE DAY



Bajey Basher Bashi On ntv at 5:20pm
Musical Programme
Host: Sadya Afreen Mallick

12:05 Pothik
12:05 Bhaho Besho Mor Gaan
12:30 Hoi Hullor
01:05 Muktangan
02:35 Drama Serial: Kachher Manush
03:15 Gange Joar Eto Fhirey
03:50 Drama: Padmo Ghokra
05:10 Din Darpan/ Ithasher Ei Diney
05:20 Bajey Basher Bashi
06:20 Shubho Shondhya
06:50 Musical Programme: Gaaner Pakhi
08:20 Ramizer Aina
09:00 Closeup1 Tomakei
11:25 Khujichhey Bangladesh Dindarpan
08:00 Ei Shokal
09:05 Aj Potrikay
10:30 R-Music
12:05 Talk Show
02:30 Islamic Programme
03:30 Drama Serial: Modhyoborti
04:00 Apon Shemanay
05:30 Gaan Ar Gaan
06:00 Ajker Bangladesh Amar Desh
06:40 Children's Programme
08:00 Drama Serial: Agantuk
08:50 Wide Angle
09:20 Concert
10:45 Rtv Exclusive
10:50 Prithibir Pathay Pathay
CHANNEL 1
08:40 Shuprobhat Bangla
09:30 Modhu Maloti
10:50 Mritu Onneshay Nazrul
BANGLAVISION
08:40 Shubho Shokal
09:05 Cartoon
09:30 Drama Serial: Agnibini Nazul
09:30 Krishnopokkho
10:00 Bangla Feature Film
02:35 Ghahi Shanyer Gaan
03:00 Agnibini Bagao Tumi
04:00 Abhimani Nazul
04:30 Ashloze Prio Ashloze
05:10 Trishale Nazul
06:50 Bidrohi
08:05 Bhatar Gaan
09:20 Anjali Loho Mor
09:50 KJ Jado Bangla Gaaney
12:05 Agamir Kartho
SONY
08:00 Shree Ganesh Spiritual
08:30 Telebrands Teleshopping
09:00 Chart Busters Movie Based
09:30 Music Mantra Music
10:30 Current Bollywood Movie Based
11:00 Boogie Woogie Dance
12:00 Akela Thriller/ Horror
01:00 Man Mein Hai Vishwas Spiritual
02:00 Vaidehi Drama
02:30 Vaidehi Drama
03:00 Maitnee - Hum Socha Na Tha Movie
05:30 Contd. Contd.
06:00 Current Bollywood Movie Based.
06:30 Music Mantra Others
07:00 Chart Busters Movie Based
07:30 Vaidehi Akela Elas Recap Others
08:00 Kudiya Bemisal Others
08:30 Contd. Contd.
10:00 Man Mein Hai Vishwas Spiritual
11:00 Current Bollywood Movie Based
11:30 Music Beats Music
STAR PLUS
08:30 Shararat - Thoda Jadu
09:30 Todi Naz
09:30 Yatra
09:30 Krishna Kalthayen
10:30 Instant Khichid
11:30 Thegreatindianlaughtertch ampion
12:30 Main Hoon Na
04:00 V First Day First Show- Starplus
04:05 V Trailers - Star Plus
04:30 Mufasir Hoon Yaaron
05:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
05:30 American Dragon: Jack Long
06:00 Buzz Light Year Of Starcommand
06:30 Pyar Ke Do Naam
08:30 Ekdraknaeshyam
08:30 Saibaba
09:30 Prithviraj Chauhan
10:00 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby
10:30 Shanno Ki Shaadi
11:00 Thodi Si Zameen Thoda Sa Aasman
Kaboom
11:30 HBO
09:30 The Matrix Revolutions
12:00 For Love or Country: A True Story
02:30 That Old Feeling
04:45 Starship Troopers 2: Hero of the Federation
06:30 Double Team
08:30 Enter The Dragon
10:30 Troy
01:45 Red Water
03:45 Conspiracy Theory
STAR MOVES
07:40 Behind The Camera: The Unauthorized Story Of Mork & Mindy
09:10 Employee Of The Month
10:45 Sweetest Thing, The
12:10 Aviator, The
03:00 Rollerball
04:45 Spartan
06:30 Opening Night: The Devil Wears Prada
07:00 Hide And Seek
08:45 Grudge, The
STAR WORLD
08:30 Billboard Us Countdown
09:30 Hogan's Heroes
10:00 Get Smart
10:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
12:30 Desperate Housewives
01:30 Law & Order: S.V.U
02:30 One Tree Hill
03:30 Ncis
04:30 Boston Legal
05:30 Hollywood Shootouts
06:30 Travel Asia
07:30 David Beckham
08:30 The Simpsons
08:00 Wonderfalls
09:00 Oprah Winfrey Show
10:00 Rendezvous With Simi Gare
10:30 Desperate Housewives
11:30 Law & Order: S.V.U
DISCOVERY CHANNEL
08:30 Wild Discovery
09:30 Discover India
10:30 Himalaya With Michael Palin
11:30 Stunt Junkies
12:00 Great Cars
12:30 Runway Moms
01:00 Yummy Mummy
01:30 Wild Discovery
02:30 Man Made Marvels Asia
03:30 Days That Shook The World
04:30 Wild Discovery
05:30 How Do They Do It?
06:30 Need for Speed
07:30 Wild Discovery
08:30 Surviving Katrina
10:30 Wild Safari
11:30 Blueprint For Disaster
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
08:30 The Living Edens
09:30 Big Cats
10:30 Dogs With Jobs
11:00 Nat Geo Wild
11:30 Nat Geo Junior
12:30 Expeditions to the Edge
01:30 Thrill Seekers
02:00 Nat Geo Wild
02:30 The Living Edens
04:30 Into The Lost World
05:30 Mystery of the Dakar
06:30 Planet Wild
07:30 Swamp Tigers
08:30 Emerging India
09:30 MegaStructures
11:30 Catastrophe