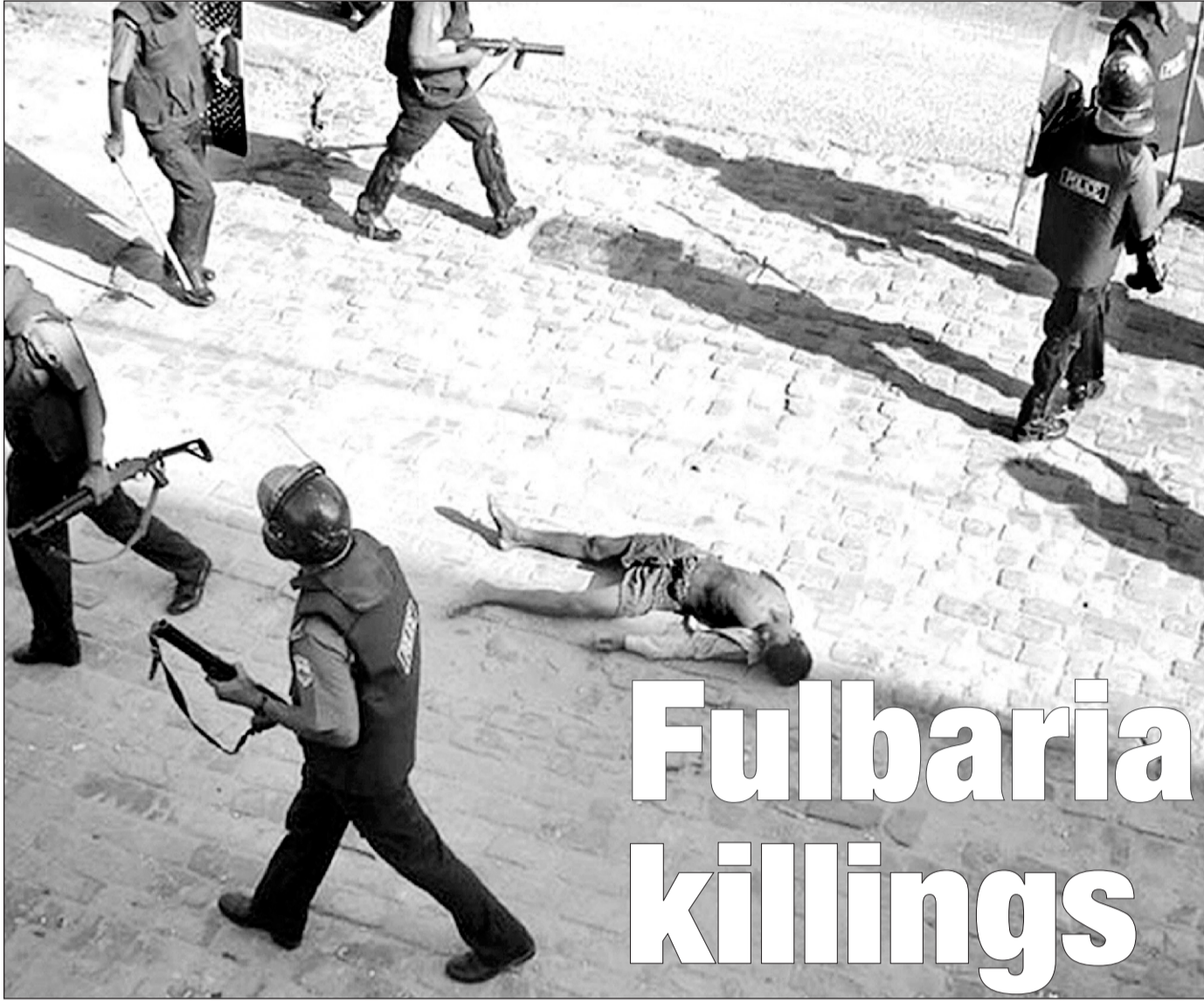


Letters will only be considered if they carry the writer's full name, address and telephone number (if any). The identity of the writers will be protected. Letters must be limited to 300 words. All letters will be subject to editing.



# Fulbaria killings

The nation once again watched, with much awe, the anarchy that has been let loose by the ruling coalition. The police and the BDR fired bullets and killed seven people at random. This barbaric act reminds one of the Pakistani brutalities against the Bengalees. This killing is more atrocious and ominous because those lost souls had been living in a land that got freedom through a concerted armed struggle against the Pakistani occupation forces in 1971. Their unfortunate deaths reveal the vulnerability of lives in this independent country. One might be reminded of other sad incidents like Shanir Akhra and Kansat where people lost their precious lives in the same manner. At this crucial juncture, one hopes that sanity and patriotism will prevail across the political horizon.

**Rafiqul Islam Rime**  
Agrabad, Chittagong



## Hair controversy

The forfeiture of a delicately poised Test match emanating from the umpire's controversial alleging of ball doctoring by Pakistani players at the Oval is the most unfortunate incident in cricket, after the infamous bodyline series. If one goes by the book, Inzamam and Pakistan could be penalised to the extent of match forfeiture, none can deny that. But if a team after losing a series and having fought back to a position of winning is unnecessarily blamed as cheats, the situation could be very different. Umpires are there to save a match and not to kill it. The role of the match referee was also dubious here. There is definitely a rat here, which is evidenced after Hair proposed to retire if he gets a handsome compensation. Well Ranjan Madugale may adjudicate, but how can he return the glorious moments that cricket lose on that fateful afternoon at oval. The Aussies here in Melbourne are backing up Hair in all possible ways. We can smell racism. If Pakistan did not have some dark track record, everyone would have been sympathetic towards them. Reverse swing is an art and bowlers must have the legitimate right to extract it in a fair manner. The ICC law of match forfeiture must be revisited. People come to see Test cricket, not to watch an impudent person like Hair.

percentage point a year in the last five years, which has been questioned by various people including economists, academicians, civil society and even the development partners. The report shows decline of poverty from 49.8 percent in 2000 to 40 percent in 2005. Bangladesh witnessed poverty reduction of one percentage point a year from 1991 to 2000 against an average GDP growth of five percent. But the latest survey shows that poverty reduction rate almost doubled whereas the growth did not increase significantly in the last five years. In such a situation the survey report raises some questions.

With considerable percentage of GDP growth, it is very natural that poverty will reduce. But with the reduction of the incidence of poverty, the intensity and severity of the overall poverty situation is also to be taken into consideration. Due to growth of the economy a few employments have been created. But the inequality has increased tremendously in the society. So the situation has not been improved for the hardcore poor. They are not getting any share from the growth of the economy as the growth is not pro-poor. They are not the subject, but object of development.

Our remittance earning has increased from one billion to four billion dollar, which is approximately thirty five thousand crore taka. If it could be distributed among the fifteen crore people then the per capita income would be almost more than two thousand taka. But the remittance is not distributed equally in the society.

Bangladesh has also witnessed the sharp price hike of essential commodities in the last few months. It has directly affected the people of limited income and has adversely affected their purchasing power. It is not clear whether the purchasing power is taken into consideration in BBS survey or not. If it is not taken into consideration then the report is not valid and must be rejected. Again, to achieve the PRSP goal we need to halve our poverty by 2015. I think in the present situation it is achievable, provided there is appropriate policy, action plan, monitoring system and support by the developed countries.

**Khan Ferdousour Rahman**  
On e-mail

**Income tax law**  
Although in the income tax law profit includes loss, but that is not for imposition of tax but for other purposes, such as computation of Entertainment Allowance. But in the budget of this year a provision has been made for imposition of tax on the turnover of a Private Limited Company even if it incurs loss. If the honourable finance minister had the desire to impose tax on the turnover even if there is loss, he could arrange to pass such a law under the caption, "Turnover Tax" separately. The insertion of the section in the law of Income tax has affected the norms of the income tax law adversely. From both the legal and the social perspective this new law is unjust and illegal as the object of the law of income tax is to impose tax on a person in relation to his income not loss and till now there was no tax on the loss of any person but this year the Private Limited Company will have to bear the burden of tax even if it incurs loss.

The lawyers, especially those who practice in income tax law, are supposed to be enlightened to understand the effect of this new law imposing tax on the Private Limited Company even if it is a losing concern.

**M. Nurunnabi, Rajshahi**

**Leather industry**  
Bangladesh earns a lot of foreign currency by exporting leather and leather products but nobody thinks about the health risks of the workers. The leather industries use a lot of potential toxic chemicals. Both workers and owners ignore the risks. Due to the health risks and high labour cost, most of the European leather industries are moving to India and China. The research we have done at the De Montfort University, Leicester, UK, suggested us to take immediate action regarding these health risks. The workers suffer from a lot of known and unknown diseases. We also got some expert (from Bangladesh, UK, and India) opinions regarding this problem. The threat is that if we fail to control this problem, leather export could be stopped in the near future. Because, according to the coming law, the exporter should not only see the leather quality, they also need to see the working environment.

Someone should speak about this matter to the whole nation or to the government. As a leading newspaper, DS can play a role here.

**Debashish Roy**  
University of Leeds  
Leeds, UK

**Countering militancy**  
The recent pre-emptive measures adopted against perceived threats from the militant groups in the country brought relief to us. An in-depth look into the matter unveils before us that such despicable acts not only bring misery and unrest in the society but also at the same time slow down the vibrant developing momentum of the economy. As a secular state we don't want any sectarian movement in our country.

**K Hasan**  
Jalalabad, Sylhet

**Deployment of peacekeepers**  
While the Bangladesh government was contemplating sending 2,000 troops to the Lebanese border with Israel at the behest of both the UN and particularly the US, the Israeli government is reported to have objected to the proposal on the plea that Bangladesh does not recognise Israel.

We fail to understand why this point should crop up now? Bangladeshi troops would be deployed on the Lebanese side of the border and are not supposed to cross over to Israel. Why should they object and why should the US

govt. keep quiet now?  
**Abul Mohsin**  
Siddheswari Circular Road, Dhaka

## Debacle in SA games

I am astonished and disappointed to learn about the failure of the Bangladesh contingent. Bangladesh became sixth in the competition trailing behind India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Afghanistan. Even the war-ravaged Afghanistan got more gold medals than a nation of 15 million people. It is painful to see our athletes and players failing to perform even up to their own capabilities. The sports authorities must take full responsibility of this failure. The

representatives of the people must make their countrymen proud by performing well. We, the general people of Bangladesh, want to see Bangladesh achieving good results. I wish the players all the best and hope they will do better in future.

**Rezwan, BUET**

## An appeal to a politician

Mr. Oli, you are a freedom fighter and our national hero. For the last two years you have been saying that if the ruling party expels you, you will fight on your own and also that the interest of the country is bigger than the interest of any individual or political party. If you are resolute in your ideal-

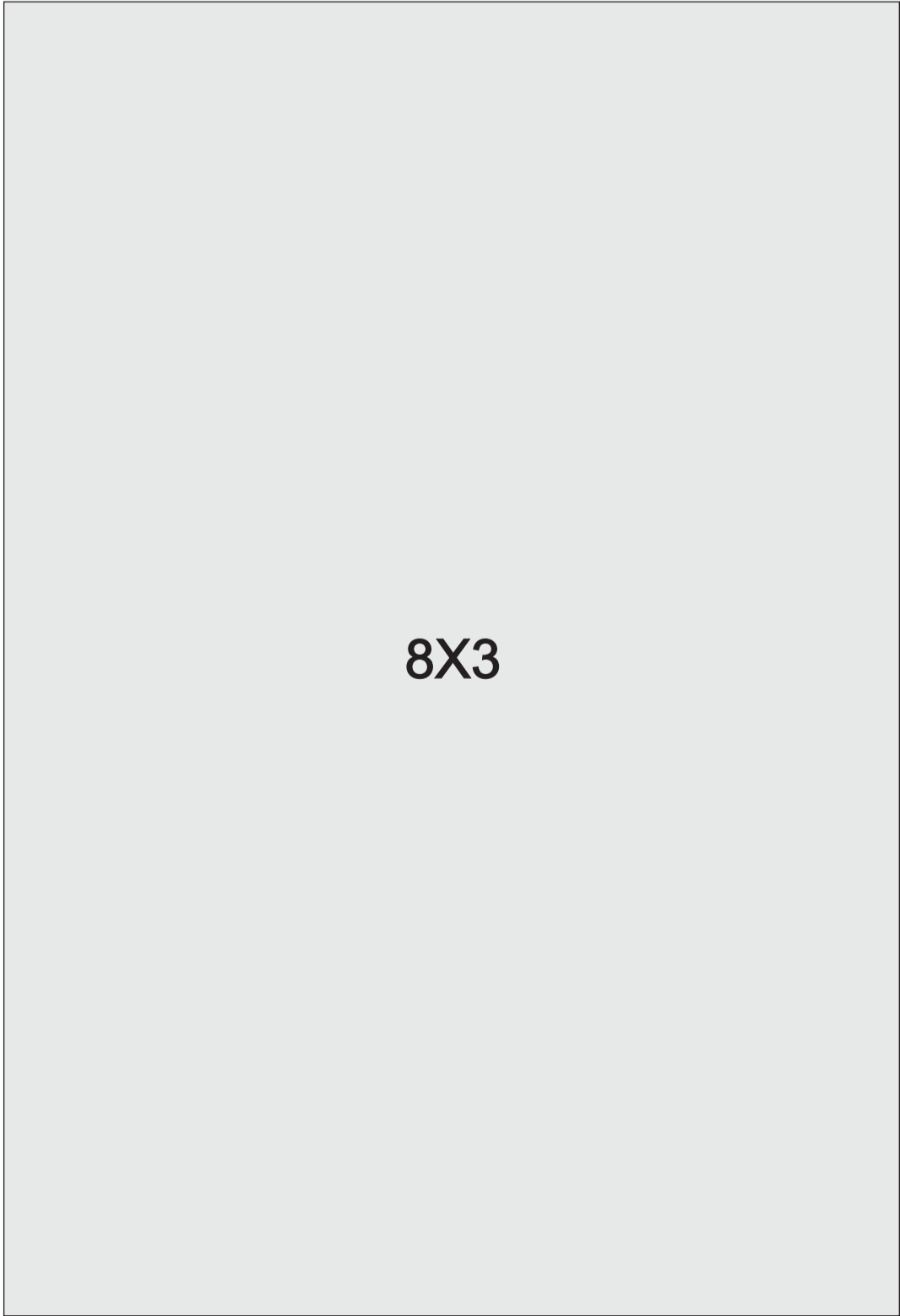
ogy, action and commitment, please make the decision yourself and take the plunge. Take a look at the state of our country. The next election is make or break for us - we may never get another chance. Each player who is able to make any kind of difference must do so.

Please, listen to your heart and do not wait for others to make the move for you.

**Sanjoy Kumar Nath, Chittagong**

## Poverty reduction claim

A recent report of Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) claimed poverty reduction in the country by 1.9



8X3



10X2



6X3