

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.

The Muslim world



Muslims killing one another should simply be unacceptable to anybody who claims himself to be a Muslim. The Shia-Sunni violence in Iraq/Pakistan should not take place in the first place (Letters, DS/Aug 30). But contributor to this violence, in my opinion, are the pseudo Muslims (regardless of their sect) who are hell bent on backstabbing their own brothers in Islam and lending their allegiance to the US-Israeli-UK axis. From the world's point of view, since the United States remains the occupation force in Iraq it is their responsibility to stop the Shia-Sunni killings. (People do

not recognise the non-functioning government installed in Iraq). However, from the US-Israeli-UK axis' point of view, they need to keep the Shia-Sunni conflict alive, so that on one fine morning they can announce that "in order to stabilise the Middle East, bring an end to sectarian violence & spread a US friendly totalitarian & farce democracy, it is urgently required to divide Iraq into Shia, Kurd & Sunni nations." One nation becomes three nations in less than a milli-second a magic that could outperform Houdini! The sooner the pseudo-Muslims real-

ise that they are being used, the quicker will not only be the end of Muslim bloodshed, but it will also give us the opportunity to redraw the map of the west for a change. The English people, I understand, have put up Scotland & Wales for sale; so we can begin with redrawing UK! Whatever the west is doing to us, we should do the same to them. I do not see any other alternative in this lawless world. Bush & his likes have wiped out all that was good.
Syed Husain
Old DOHS, Dhaka

Juvenile diabetes

Type 1 juvenile diabetes is becoming widespread in developed world and may hit Bangladesh soon. The diabetes we generally see in Bangladesh is type 2 diabetes, which is mostly an inherited disease carried over by generations. But the type 1 diabetes occurs when the pancreas is failing to produce any insulin to help body cell to absorb glucose from blood. Type 1 diabetes develops when some recently developed antibody (within the body) accidentally destroys the beta cell, thinking that it is a foreign cell. This beta cell of the pancreas has the responsibility of producing insulin. So far, doctors do not have any conclusive explanation of this type of internal destruction, but doctors and

researchers are working day and night to restrict this widespread juvenile diabetes in the developed world. They are treating this lifelong disability condition in many aspects such as, better patient management, lifestyle management, improving the experience of blood testing and insulin intake and finally the cure of this condition by beta cell regeneration, pancreas transplantation, artificial pancreas transplantation, beta cell transplantation, etc. In Bangladesh we have so far seen that diabetes happens mostly to the elderly and they have to stop eating all kinds of sweets and do regular exercises. Most of the diabetic conditions we have experienced are mainly type 2 and exercise and healthy lifestyle do improve this condition. Because

the cause of type 1 diabetes is different and it can even happen to children as young as 2 (so far I have seen), as a society we should start preparing ourselves to manage this type of diabetes. Of course, the family may require a few days of training and counselling process to face all sorts of challenges they should be prepared for and our health system should take care of those things.
Ekrumullah Chowdhury
One-mail

"Let us go against the stream"

This refers to the above article written by Mohammad Badrul Ahsan published in your Friday, 1st September issue and I very much agree with most of the points

raised by Mr. Ahsan. One of the major demands in the then East Pakistan was to save the people from the so called 22 rich families, who were exploiting us. Today 35 years after independence, we have created 1,20,000 such rich families, who are sucking our blood. Let us start from the beginning. Right after Independence of Bangladesh, most of the mills and factories were Nationalized and administrators were appointed by the then government, without taking into consideration their capability of running such units. Thus these people not only messed up things, but made so much money that all these mills and factories turned into sick industries. We need to have the names and addresses of all these Administrators and surely we will

find most of them are well placed in today's Bangladesh. A number of properties including land and buildings were declared abandoned, we need to know who were so fortunate to get them registered in their names. We want them back. These belong to the people not to any political party. We also would like to know how many bureaucrats both civil and military have registered NGOs in their family members' names. Bangladesh is being raped in every sector on a regular basis by everyone who matters—politicians, government officials etc. Let us not show any mercy to all these people, but join with Mr. Ahsan in taking direct and positive action to save the country and leave a better Bangladesh for the coming generation.

A reader
One-mail

Private universities

This in an undeniable fact that private universities of Bangladesh were once a matter of debate as they could not ensure quality education for the students. Guardians and students were not sure about their performance. Although private universities did emerge overnight, they have been able to demonstrate their efficacy and are not less reliable compared to public universities. Basically, our students are very much sanguine of securing a prestigious certificate from the highest seat of learning and thus private universities are undoubtedly an alternative. But a

very common question needs to be answered. Are the private universities imparting quality education? In my opinion, the following issues are significant. i) The teachers are very much punctual and sincere. ii) There is no bridge between the teachers and the students. iii) The students are to do frequent presentation, case study, tutorial, class test, project and the like. iv) Attendance is mandatory. v) The teachers must take make-up classes if and when necessary. vi) Medium of instruction as well as of campus is English. vii) There are no political activities. viii) The teachers are rigorously evaluated by the students. ix) The students have to learn fundamental courses concerning computer literacy regardless of departments.

x) Easy access to internet. xi) The results of most of the private universities are proclaimed in accordance with grading system and this system is akin to international standard, though the uniform grading system is yet to be actualised. It can concisely be summed up that the private universities are growing rapidly across the country. Besides, it is seen that the public universities are affected by the private universities. But there should be more rigorous admission test for the students and the authorities must not compromise the quality of education.
Md. Rezaul Karim
Lecturer, English Department
Leading University, Sylhet.

Civic problems at Baridhara

I am forced to draw the attention of the highest authorities for the very simple reason that the officials at lower levels do not function at all without orders from the higher chain of command under the prevailing circumstances. Of course, they do function at times without command but that functioning is rarely for public interest; they mostly function in their own interest for their own benefit.

The actual problems I myself, my family members, and the neighbourhood are facing now for which I am drawing the attention of the highest authorities are specifically as follows: For the last few months it is found that the City Corporation's personnel have placed a very long and large garbage trailer on the western side of Progoti Sharani viz. on the western side of our building (at Plot 2, Road 2/b, J Block, Baridhara) and the Japanese School. The American chancery and the American embassy are also situated nearby on the northeast and north-west respectively. This long and large garbage trailer receives garbage throughout the day. The garbage is carried by a fleet of rickshaw vans from various parts of Baridhara, Gulshan and then shifted to and piled up on the trailer by manual labour. This filled-in trailer is removed in the evening or midnight and replaced by another empty trailer which again starts receiving garbage from the morning hours. This process of handling the garbage day and night has vitiated the whole neighbourhood by its extremely foul, obnoxious and stinky odour and most harmful germ-carrying air. We wonder why the officials of the City Corporation could not select a suitable place elsewhere for this job, instead of victimising the people of Baridhara?

We also find that the muddy thick water and rubbish that fills up the sewerage drain which is located in-between the service road and the main road (Progoti Sharani) from the Japanese School up to the American chancery and Badda police station is never cleaned. Consequently, the muddy thick water and rubbish of this sewerage drain spreads intolerable and

unhealthy stink in the whole neighbourhood. It also breeds mosquitoes in millions. We, therefore, beg to the relevant authorities to save us from the above-mentioned unhealthy atmosphere by removing the garbage trailer elsewhere immediately and cleaning the sewerage drain regularly.

There is a service road running by the eastern side of the Progoti Sharani and by the western side of the Japanese School, our residence building, American chancery and some other houses of Baridhara J-Block. It is very strange that every night 6-7 public buses are parked on this service road by the side of our residence building and another 6-7 buses are parked on the main road without any legal authority for parking. This sort of unlawful parking at night has turned the place into a sort of unofficial public bus depot and a den of anti-social elements.

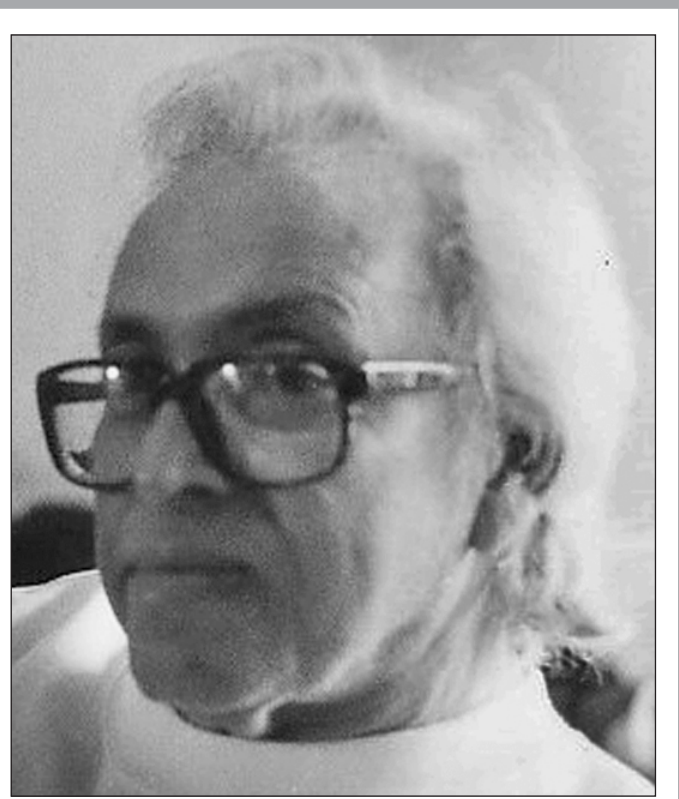
May we, therefore, request the authorities to look into the problems faced by us.
Shahadat Hussain
One-mail

Science and life

There should be a human face of scientific ventures. History proves that science is not the ultimate means for human development. Unfortunately, the people of Bangladesh are experiencing the drawbacks of pure scientific exercises in different areas. From abroad you see everything through a colourful eye. Things are not happening here as you see from abroad.

You sincerely raised issues related to future economic prospects of Bangladesh. I am not sure what facts you are talking about. Do you think that the anti AEC campaign is based on a false premise? Do you think that the people who have organised mass protest know little about the project? It seems to me that you are in favour of FDI sacrificing the interests of the mass people of the area concerned. For mass people, it is proved that money is not everything. Livelihoods embrace many more issues.

Omar Mohammed
Toronto, Canada



OUR POET

Though Shamsur Rahman is no more with us, his works will continue to shimmer like stars in the firmament of Bangla literature. As far as post-independence Bangla poetry is concerned, his was the most authentic and courageous voice. To his credit, he had about forty volumes of poems.

An unalloyed love for the land and the people, an awareness of the people's movements against the tyranny and autocracy, a commitment and desire for poetry—all this shaped his aesthetics. Unlike Al Mahmud, a contemporary of Rahman, who drew upon the folk elements, he tapped into the urban experience. In other words, modernist angst, the heartache of the city-dwellers, the ennui of city life are the recurrent themes of Rahman's poetry. He was at the forefront of the poetic movement of the sixties, the decade of upheaval and mass-upsurge, leading to the war of independence.

It is noteworthy that he wrote for the children with equal ease. His works of translation are also of great merit. It is said that what gets lost in translation is poetry. Yet his translation of Robert Frost's poems seems to belie this dictum. In this volume Rahman rendered the rhythm and meter of the original poems.

Though poetry and politics are separate discourses, Rahman's poetics tends to juxtapose the two fields. Long live the legacy of Shamsur Rahman!

Zabed Wali
One-mail

Qawami education

I'm not against religious education. But I'm against low standard of education. Again, the government is playing with our education for power.

Once one of my catholic friends from abroad told me, "Some of the Muslim countries are so rich, why aren't they coming forward with their money in scientific research. You people don't have any contribution to the latest medical inventions. You all are solely depending on our medical treatment." I couldn't say anything. Once our Muslim scientists were world famous but now in this sector nothing is happening. Some of our Islamic groups are holding a

powerful position in the government these days. Rather than concentrating on making the madrassah education much more practical, they are pushing the students towards a suicidal course.

Millions of students are coming out of madrassahs every year but their achievements are poor compared to the other sectors of our education system. We can use these students as a good workforce for our country by blending the religious education with the latest competitive world-class education. Only then the decision of upgrading their degree should be taken.
Aronno, Dhaka



Please don't threaten me

I have every reason now to live in fear and agony in my beloved country. I have every reason to verify myself as a Muslim. I have all the reasons to feel like a dead man. So, please don't threaten me. I am not Prof Yunus or Prof Humayun Azad. Neither I am any relative of those intellectuals of our country who were murdered on 14 December 1971. I am not Dr. Jafar Iqbal or Hasan Azizul Haque. Obviously my name mimics like Muslim, but nowadays I cant assure myself as a Muslim. I need to be evaluated. While reading about my religion and my prophet, I used to believe "my belief and religion is mine, yours is yours". While realising my religion and the past, I used to believe that only God can evaluate and call someone an atheist. But now I need to be evaluated by the elements of Jamaat-Shibir and other Islamic party activists.

Thanks to them. Many thanks to them for their voices of hatred and violence in the name of Islam. Thanks to them for their strong determination and relentless effort to clean this country and countrymen of free thoughts.

But what can I do? Though I am afraid of threat, I can't help reading the works of Hasan Azizul Haque. My little children cant refrain themselves from the books of Jafar Iqbal. My

university going honest students used to cry, as they will never get the classes of Prof Yunus or Humayun Azad.

Please don't take my religion as your political property. I know, I can only request you all to change your thoughts. I can't threaten you in the name of my belief. I cant cut the tendon of human beings to torture him in the name of my idealism.

The young activists of Jamaat Shibir, you didn't see the liberation war, you were not born at that time. But your leaders were there. You can't even understand the feelings of a freedom fighter when he went out of his home to death for this motherland. But your leaders do know about the pain and tears of these freedom fighters. Now what you are doing in the name of religion with one eye, what you are executing in the name of those traitor leaders, is neither a religious act nor a human behaviour.

Please threaten me again and again up to my death, but please don't threaten my sweet country and the honest learned open-minded patriots. We lost the best sons of this soil 35 years back. We don't want it again. I think they are the windows of light. Shutting the windows you will be a ghost in a ghost country.

Kingshuk Rahman
One-mail



Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, once known as the country's first Science and Technology University with its distinct curriculum and academic rigor, is about to lose its glorious image due to political violence and frequent closure and most recently the university had to shut itself up for four months (!), leaving its six thousand students as well as their parents in an uncertain situation. In this competitive era, the world is moving too fast and each nation is trying to beat others through advanced

research and technological developments, whereas we are lagging behind by closing up our higher educational institutes! We earnestly request the authorities to take immediate steps to put an end to the stalemate prevailing in the university. In the greater interest of its thousands of students, the university should be reopened as soon as possible. Please don't play with our lives only to have political gains.
M. Abul Lyse
BBA, SUST, Sylhet