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# Fatwa and its influence

I am afraid today's Bangladesh is not the Bangladesh we dreamt of.

Historically, ours promised secularism. But after around ten years the situation was totally changed. Rise of fatwa has been a very critical and much talked about issue.

Obviously, it is not compatible with the goals of our freedom fight. What is very astonishing is that besides contradicting our constitution, every democratic government has been silent on this matter.

Furthermore, through tacit approval and green-signal from the state apparatus and banishment of books, promotion of fanaticism (originating from fatwa) strangely occurred. Laws however suggest something else. According to law "intimidating or pursuing people in the name of "Divine satisfaction or dissatisfaction" is illegal! I believe inspired by 'religion'-based politics it has great influence on promoting fanaticism and rise of extremism.

Society should take a tough stand on the issue.

**Aubhishek Xaman**  
Boro Maghbazar, Dhaka

## Check-post on DU campus

As a student of the University of Dhaka, I've been experiencing some unexpected events including political clash and killing inside the campus for three years. Indeed the security system of Dhaka University is obsolete, especially for the teachers. But a regrettable matter is that whenever any incident takes place, the authorities swiftly get up and deploy police forces at some particular places in order to tackle the situation in the name of checking. This seems to be like the proverb 'after the death comes the doctor'. What a bizarre act!

Recently, we lost an eminent figure-- Aftab Ahmed, a teacher of the department of political science at the university, who was shot dead. Soon after that the authorities installed police checkpoint at every entrance of the university. This is so easy to understand that the culprits would go into hiding after committing the crime. So checking at the entrance only results in harassment to people.

**M Alauddin Ansary, DU**

## Big hearted Beauty

I just read an article in a newspaper about the donation of Tk 50,000 for the acid victims by one of last years 'Closeup 1' winners - Beauty. I must say I am very much taken aback by the generosity of this young girl with a big heart. I got emotional when I read the story about her kindness. Beauty has been in the limelight for less than a year for her music talent. Coming from a simple peasant family of rural Bangladesh, I'm sure poverty was part of her daily life.

Yet the girl just showed us all that she could have been poor in terms of monetary or earthly belongings but has an extremely rich and kind heart.

Some critics have said recently that the new-found fame of the recent 'Closeup 1' winners is making them act all 'starry'; Beauty has just proved that she is a 'star' indeed but in every positive sense.

We all have so much to learn from people like her!

**Halimul Mannan**  
Monroe, Louisiana, USA

## Bold resignation but...

This refers to the resignation by the state minister for power. I'm addressing the state minister who had the courage to resign. It's a milestone for our democracy and I would like to point out that as an ex-military officer you know the norms and values of democracy but most of our ministers are not aware of those.

I was taken aback when you as a minister said, "Nobody is helping me to resolve the power crisis. I could not implement any decision. The secretary concerned is not working properly." How did you carry out your duties during the last four months? We did not wait for such a statement from you. If you were not pleased with the way the power crisis had been addressed you could take the decision to quit earlier.

**Abu Kabir, University of East London, London**



# Only justice can bring peace

I am so shocked at the ordeal of the Lebanese people that I am unable to think of anything else. A prosperous country and the bustling cities have become a heap of ruins by Israeli attacks backed by the United States and the United Kingdom. They planned it long time ago, the capture of the two Israeli soldiers was only an excuse. It seems the work of devils, no human being could act so monstrously. The deaths of innocent people, most of them children and women, the sufferings of the bereaved families, the empty looks of those who lost everything, are unbearable.

The United States is blaming Iran and Syria for helping Lebanon, but what about

the US and the UK sending arms and ammunitions to Israel, though it has enough of those? Israel even did not hesitate to drop cluster bombs when dialogue on a ceasefire was going on. America has declared that it will investigate about the use of cluster bombs. What a farce! They supplied those knowing very well that the cluster bombs would be used.

We praise Hezbollah for repelling the invaders, they have every right to protect the country and by the grace of Almighty Allah they have done it successfully. Israel is demanding disarming of Hezbollah, why should Hezbollah be disarmed? They did not start the war and they have no

intention to be in conflict with Israel, if everyone acts justly there will be no cause for hostility.

President Bush has become light headed from having too much power; power should be used for the welfare of the world, not for destroying it. A knife in the hands of a surgeon could save lives and in the hands of a murderer it will be used as an instrument of killing.

In the past people loved America, it was a dreamland to them but the Bush administration has destroyed everything-- it has created enemies all over the world.

**Nur Jahan**  
Chittagong

# Who are the extremists?



The statement 'US President George W. Bush might have bungled in Iraq' (Letters, DS/October 2) is not only the understatement of the year 2006 but also it is jaw dropping! George Bush is as extremist as Osama bin Laden. This man should stand trial for war crimes and genocide. He is responsible for killing Muslims as well as his fellow Americans. And it is not by mistake that he has initiated that some of the laws in his country be changed so that he cannot be charged with war crimes once he leaves office.

Extremism among the Muslims did not arise overnight. It is some of us, posing to be Muslims, who are partly responsible for what is going on in the Muslim world today. Because of hell bent allegiance to money & the west some of us (the fake ones) have had the hand in desecrating our own holy lands; some of us made friends among our enemies so that we could become the king of the lands; for cheap recognition from the powerful western extremists we have changed our divine laws & values.

Self-criticism is good, but that does not mean that one will absolve the west of any wrong doings. If one wants to call a spade a spade, then be honest about it and don't leave the west out. Have some self-respect. This western boot-licking attitude of some (fake) Muslims is also partly responsible for the tragic conflicts among Muslims.

**Syed Husain, Old DOHS, Dhaka**



10X3

10X2

8X3

## Arsenic-free tubewell

As we look around us, we can see people living under-privileged. Drinking arsenic water, committing suicide, drug addiction, realising dowry at the time of marriage, are the common problems faced by our society nowadays. They are so frequently taking place that we at times fail to notice praiseworthy initiatives.

One such example is the distribution of arsenic-free tubewell, sponsored by Tokushima Club and coordinated by Dr. Moshir Rahman, an associate professor of statistics department in Jahangir Nagar University, that took place recently. A meeting was also called in this regard by Dr. Moshir Rahman. While delivering his welcome speech Dr. Rahman expressed his heartfelt gratitude towards the Japanese

guests and hoped that they would extend their helping hands furthermore in future.

The meeting being over, cheques were handed to the people coming from different districts of Bangladesh. The total number of distributed tubewells was around 100.

**Syed Nazmul Alam**  
Gulshan-2, Dhaka