

#### "Atta Turks"

After reading Ms Antonia Antonopoulos' letter (01 July), I read the article "Atta Turks" by M. J. Akbar (27 June) to know what it was all about. Ms. Antonopoulos claims to have corrected certain historical facts which the article had overlooked or as she said has 'mislead' the Bangladeshi reader.

The article as it seemed to me was more a travelogue with a bit of humour rather than a serious writeup on the history of the Greeks and Turks. Nevertheless, her comparison on the plight of the Greeks under the Turks with that of Muslims (correct word should be Palestinians) under Israeli occupation is understandable

However, her attitude is outright communal when she refers the Palestinians as 'your Muslim brothers and sisters' and later comparing 'her' God with 'his' God for making a point.

\* \* \*

S. Islam Dhaka

This is in response to Antonia

Antonopoulos' letter (July 1) about M J Akbar's misrepresentations and biased editorial about the Turks and the Greeks. Antonia must forgive M J Akbar who does have a tendency to get carried away with woolly headed hero worship. Just read his book on Nehru, the Making of India. The genocide of the Greeks and Armenians is not historical quibbling but as much a fact as the holocaust. It was actually the first modern genocide of the 20th century.

Antonia leaves off at an early stage of modern history as well. The Turks have not treated he Kurds very well either, banning their language, culture etc. In 1974 they invaded Cyprus dividing the island and have tried to ship in immigrants from the mainland to give it more weight.

Those of us educated in Bangladesh, even in the English system, are woefully ignorant of these events. Bengali medium books only praise Ataturk, while the O' level history syllabus glosses over the events leading to the Greek revolution and ignores the genocide by the Turks. But these events are still very much a fact of life in that region.

I have never known any Turks so I

### Banani, Dhaka

starving millions.

Agrabad, Chittagong

both the murdered

What we, the general people now

have to do is to reject student poli-

tics and move to ban it in all educa-

tional institutions. Our leaders are

would never take steps to ban

student politics because their selfish

interest is served through this

reject and ban student politics or we

continue to carry the coffins of our

Notre Dame College, Dhaka

**Ban student politics** 

At the very outset I would like to

convey my heartfelt congratulations

to the Prime Minister for her pro-

posed ban on student politics in

order to eradicate violence for

bringing back congenial atmo-

sphere in the campuses. We, the

common people of Bangladesh, are

immensely delighted to learn the

news that the Prime Minister has

come to realise the demand of time,

although it has been too late. But the

news is more shocking when we

learn that the mainstream opposi-

tion leader who was the Prime

Minister just several months ago.

opposed the proposal put forward in

role for social change. Once stu-

dents were treated as the epitome of

ideal. But now a days, it seems that

the ideal and morality of the stu-

dents are entombed in a pall of

immorality and corruption which is

the bad impact of our national

We hope that the Prime Minister

(who seems to be cordial) and the

Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina

Students, no doubt, play a pivotal

the Jatiya Sangsad

politics

The choice is ours. Either we

and the murderer

SY Jamal

politics

politics

sons and daughters.

Reaz Mohiuddin

# To some letter writers

I am not writing with any anguish or Sympathetic towards frustration rather in an amused state of mind. I am referring to several letters written by silly people. To start with it's Mr Neaz Al

Rahman on budget and kiwi fruits. Both the murderer and the mur-Come on Mr Neaz - since when dered draw sympathy from me have you become so naive? So because the murderer (Tagar) was what if you are not one of the BNP compelled to join dirty student ministers? Like them everyone in politics, and the murdered (Sony) Bandladesh eats these ordinary was the worst victim of student fruits. (better call it mastaan politics)

Mr Masroor Ahmed Deepak is so ignorant about TV that he doesn't know what should be shown by BTV

Mr Shawkat- aren't you aware that this jungle named Bangladesh is for people like AC Akram and not for Rubels and us? So either be an Akram or perish like Rubel.

Bastitat -- You are a veteran and should know very well for whom the roads of this country are. The budget, the police, the Pajeros are not for you or an ambulance with patients. These are for our angel ministers and their cohorts only.

Mr Jabed, how can you be so childish? The budget can't be meant for 130 million people who cant even spell the word budget or know its meaning. So why should they worry about it?

Finally, Mr Bari hush! Hush! Please don't try to wake this child called RAJUK from its slumber. After all it is a tired child sleeping in airconditioned offices with rest of its cohorts.

#### Ahmad Kamal Abu Dhabi, UAE

#### Sharon's excesses

I am extremely happy to see your editorial on Prime Minister Sharon's excesses, which is surely the feeling of all reasonable people of the world irrespective of caste and creed.

Everybody knows how Israel was established driving out hundreds and thousands of Palestinians from their ancestral homeland. Those left behind were living like disgraced persons in their own motherland. Israel in their deceitful ways started annexing Arab land flouting resolutions after resolutions of the world body UNO with sympathy and

smell all about the place?

axis of evils i.e. USA, UK and Israel

the day is not far away when the

UNO would meet the same fate of

League of Nations. As the saying

goes like "Power corrupts and

absolute power corrupts absolutely"

the axis of evils have corrupted

themselves by flouting all norms of

civilised society; therefore, they do

not find the reasons to solve prob-

lems in Palestine. Kashmir etc. We

only hope that good sense will

prevail and violence will become

non-exitent for a better living in the

World Cup 2002



TO THE EDITOR

they had learnt nothing from their electoral debacle, continuing to fight over portraits, DNA tests and what

not Right now public sympathy is overwhelmingly against BNP if not for AL. The opposition finds itself in the same position where BNP was last year after five years of AL misrule.

This just goes to show that our people are fed up with self serving politicians. We didn't vote AL out of power for being thieves, which they were. They were voted out of power because of the depredations of Minister's sons and the deteriorating standard of living in Bangladesh. BNP has taken only a few months since last October to throw away all the public support they had. When we voted for a change last year, no one imagined we were voting in a

everywhere in memory of late Sheikh Muiibur Rahman. Now it is BNP's turn. Crores of taka would be spent to decorate Zia's mazar. Of course, important development projects are getting dropped since there is not enough money in the treasury.

We still hope and imagine that some day true people's representatives will be elected. M Smith

USA

### President's resignation

I am a stunned BNP worker who has sacrificed his personal life for the last 20 years for the sake of democracy. Like Prof. Chowdhury I tried with my fellow workers to be honest,

truthful and loyal to the country. Clearly my leader has rejected our kind of politics and here are the reasons why: λ Jealousy: Educated, well-

spoken, honourable and noncorrupt men like Prof. Chowdhury are looked upon as a threat to some of the party people because people like him cannot be bought.  $\lambda$  Dream of a presidential govern-

ment: With 2/3rd majority the ruling party came to power and now is trying to make sure that parliamentary democracy meets its death. If that becomes difficult, then they will select some spineless, puppet like persons as the caretaker government and would ruin the next general election. But Prof. Chowdhury is nobody's puppet.

Our leaders should know that they wouldn't be able to sell the Zia mazaar story to millions of

This is in reference to your front-page (June 28) AP sport report carried a sub-headline "Magicians, machines face off". I find this sentiment stupidly over-simplistic and a rehashing of a lame, old stereotype. Brazilian show biz football history, for all its undeniable flair and great success, has often ranged from astonishingly selfish exhibitionism to misplaced arrogance. Germany's football tradition and its great teams over the decades have epitomised remarkable solidity, resilience, consistency, a teamwork ethic and peerless class and quality. Italy, England, Spain, Holland, Portugal, Belgium etc. (Germany's perennial European peers) have never matched Germany's consistency or success. If many people find German football 'machine-like', that's okay, I know where that denigration comes from. Germany need not apologise for its efficient, classy, if ruthless, style that intimidates opponents and infuriates rival fans.

Curiously, the report makes an obviously skewed comparison between Brazilian football "at its best" and German football "at its worst". Can you spot the transparent bias here? Then, a statistical comparison is cited that shows (correctly) that in Germany-Brazil encounters over the last few decades, Brazil clearly has the edge over Germany. Yet, a top-class sport report would not have failed to mention, as this report strangely does, that an overwhelming majority (about 70 per cent) of Germany-Brazil encounters so far have been in 'friendlies' played all over the world. Intelligent, honest fans everywhere can testify how 'friendly' results are often very misleading and meaningless, because of the very nature of these games.

Royal family!

In the UK, and across the Common-

wealth, there has been an outpour-

ing of affection and appreciation for

50 years' service to her people of

the remarkable Queen Elizabeth.

Thus I consider Ziauddin Ahmed's

interpretation of the behaviour of the

present Prime Minister as corre-

sponding to a desire to set up a

'royal family' totally inappropriate.

Modern 'royal families', in any

constitutional monarchy worthy of

the name, are not given any status

What seems to be going on in Ban-

gladesh is an attempt to found a

political dynasty. History tells us that

some political dynasties can be

quite good, if the family concerned is

or respect unless they deserve it.

Sajjad Husain Dhaka

M.H Bari

Khulna

unwise and above all parochial. How this move was taken in presence of the Prime Minister. The BNP parliamentary committee looked at the matter very narrowly. They did not bother to consider it from the point of people's view and the

nation's interest. Though the President is only a ceremonial post yet it's an institution. Every body should honour the post. But what is happening? The presidency as an institution needs to be upheld for the greater interest of the country. The President's resignation will surely be marked in our history, as the outcome of bad politics

It was really a shock going through the reports in the local dailies that some of the young parliamentarians wanted to impeach the President AQ M B. Chowdhury only because he failed to pay a visit to the burial site of our shaheed President Zia. But we think the young and respected lawmakers at least should have taken it into consideration, that, it B. Chy was the person who played a valiant role during the last five years of Awami depression and the programme Sabash Bangladesh was the creation of Mahi B Chowdhury and Tareq Rahman, under the strict guidance of his leadership

## Dhaka Impeachment of a

Peerzadah

President

think the BN

to its offshoot VHP and Bajrangdal. All the government machinery was involved in killings of Muslims in Gujarat. But the International governments ignored these incidents and called it as India's internal matter. How can massacre of innocent civilians be a country's internal matter?

DHAKA WEDNESDAY JULY 3, 2002

Indian army has been doing the same thing in Kashmir. All the measures announced by India after Musharraf pledge to halt infiltration is of cosmetic nature to hoodwink the world.

This is the right time that our diplomats and media work closely in bringing the world opinion in favour of Pakistan. President Musharraf is advised to be very clear on Kashmir issue. There is no need to make a U turn on Kashmir policy. The whole system has to be changed.

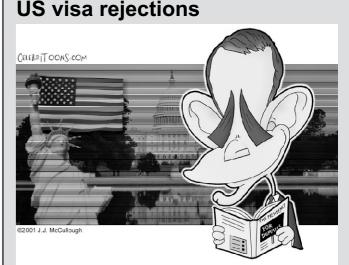
Shah Affan Canada

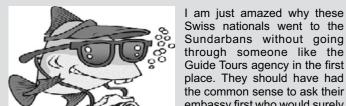
### Plots and conspiracies

Politicians are really alike aren't they? Khaleda now smells plots like Sheikh Hasina did before her. The essence of their conspiracies remain the same, the opposition is plotting to overthrow the government with the connivance of retired army officers and civil servants. Actually I'd have thought AL would have a hard time finding a retired army officer who's not already a member of either party.

The duty of an opposition is to oppose. "When it properly discharges them the preservation of our freedom is assured. The reading of history proves that freedom always dies when criticism ends. It upholds and maintains the rights of minorities against majorities. It must be vigilant against oppression and unjust invasions by the Cabinet of the rights of the people. It should supervise all expenditures and prevent over-expenditure by exposing to the light of public opinion wasteful expenditures or worse. It must scrutinize every action by the government and in doing so prevents the short-cuts through democratic procedure that governments like to make.'

of exceptional ability - but they are in - Hon, John G. Diefenbaker, "The a quite different category to royalty. Role of the Opposition in Parlia-





Tourists: Endangered species in Bangladesh

couple, the one with the pregnant wife, who got mugged and beaten by those exuberant BNP boys. Our airport is an insult to the name of President Zia. The arrivals

and greeting system or lack thereof is beyond even the usual governmental inefficiency. I haven't been to Africa but I am guessing

#### "Two Swiss nationals robbed at Sundarbans" I am just amazed why these tered in their parking lots. Swiss nationals went to the Even if you do brave Dhaka Airport you then have the pleasure



embassy first who would surely have alerted them of the fact that Bangladesh is a lawless jungle, albeit a proud, independent, lawless jungle. The

same goes for that Iranian

the airport at Rwanda is worse than ours although that's of little TAI consolation. The ones in Kathmandu and Calcutta may not be new Dhaka or fancy but they work well. At least you do not get robbed or pes-

cannot comment on them. But I have had the great pleasure of having many Greek friends and by and large they are far more similar to us than anyone could imagine Europeans to be.

It was only British betrayal that denied the Greeks their certain victory and the liberation of Thrace and Anatolia from 400 years of Turkish rule. Something the Greeks are yet to forgive

"Fleftheria I Thanatos" (freedom or death)-- the rallying cry of the Revolution

#### Don Quixote Dhaka

### Unocal's reply and...

I refer to the captioned letter of Mr. Scott Barber (June 19)

The success story of Unocal in Bangladesh/Bibiyana is undoubtedly remarkable. In fact the said letter manifests the keen interest to further invest millions of US\$ in Bibiyana, Sylhet once Unocal receives the green light from the Govt of Bangladesh reassuring chances of Unocal's recovery of its investment. Isn't it preposterous that, even this minimum requirement of an investor's recovery of investment cannot be re-assured to Unocal?

Having minutely gone through the captioned letter it's a pain in the neck to realise that, despite the change in the govt so long as bureaucracy remains supreme "old wine in new bottle syndrome" will continue to perpetually haunt this beloved land of ours.

In the meantime, we can only continue to hope and pray for the best while people like Mr. Scott Barber continue(s) patiently, to drill sense into the thick: skulls and skins of our whiz kids who apparently are bereft of any; background of Petroleum Geology and/or Petroleum Engineering experience to evaluate or challenge. In such circumstances it is but quite natural to conveniently opt for the safe side, by indulging in criticism which, is the hallmark of us. I, therefore, appeal to all right

thinking people to give a patient thought to this matter for arriving at a healthy and appropriate solution, as, this is one sector which can bring smiles as well as full belly to the

would be sincere to ban student support of the only superpower USA politics sine die considering the and its stooge UK.

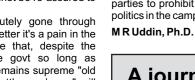
#### areater interest of the nation Al-Amin Mahmud Dhaka University, Dhaka

Nowhere in the civilised world students are abused by the national political parties to achieve their political goal of capturing power. It is know the massacre of Jenin could great shame to the whole nation not be probed by UNO due to the way the political parties use our Israel's intransigent attitude and students to rule the campuses. The non-cooperation and none in the academic institutions are turned into world could raise any voice. The institutions of anarchy and chaos. way the UNO is by-passed by the

The quality of public educational institutions are at their lowest level. The middle-class cannot afford to enrol their children in the highly priced private institutions, which are relatively politics free. But the worst victims of this political hooliganism are our publicly supported campuses. Something must be done right now at the background of the recent ugly incident at our most prestigious institutions BUET. This is the time to find out which political party really loves the country and bluntly shun their association with their student umbrella organisation.

I also urge the entire nation to build up a mass movement and create pressure on the political parties to prohibit nurturing student politics in the campuses.

weather to clear. No complaints.



I am really curious to see how AL carries itself now. By all accounts A journey by boat, sorry Biman

world

A. Baree

Dhaka

AL

On June1, 2002 I was travelling from Kolkata to Dhaka by flight

number BG092 of Biman Bangladesh Airlines. The plane left

Kolkata at around 9:30am IST, 15 minutes behind schedule,

which is quite normal for any airline. No complaints. Reaching

within 60 miles or so of Dhaka the aircraft got into serious bump-

ing because of choppy conditions. No complaints. After a few

circles around the Dhaka sky and some stomach churning the

DC-10 commander diverted the aircraft to Chittagong, landing

there at around 11:00am. No complaints. We waited in the tran-

sit lounge of Chittagong airport for a couple hours for the Dhaka

Now then, what is the complaint? It is high time Biman

replaced its inefficient cabin crews. However rude it sounds, I

found most of the crews, all the ladies and some of the young

males in particular, to be absolutely untrained, impolite and with

a lack of attitude required for the profession. There was an Eng-

lish-speaking lady sitting beside me. Before departing from

BAKSAL in the guise of BNP. When I mentioned to a friend of

of breathing our noxious air and brushing your teeth and showering

in the sewage seeped water supplied by WASA. On a side note,

has road-carpeting technology in the 21st century still unable to

come up with a cost-effective way of boiling tar? Or is there no

viable alternative to those workmen on the sides of many roads

burning wood and spreading that black smoke with the peculiar

Before I forget, if you're visiting Bangladesh remember to smell

your fish before eating it. WASA union people lease out huge

lagoons of human faeces for aqua-culture in Pagla. You literally eat

But beware of eating fish from the rivers as well. Apart from the

fact that toxic industrial waste of all descriptions is dumped in our

fish which has been grown in human excrement. Yummy.

rivers daily, it is also the toilet for our 120 million countrymen.

After all this, I'm amazed we have any tourists at all!

In this unipolar world none really mine that we're about to go into lagatar hartals, she disagreed dares to speak against USA sup-According to her, given the fact that ported Israel and its state run terror-AL is seeing BNP fall over itself ism against the unarmed Palestinthrough infighting and stupidity. AL ians. On the one hand the USA is supplying arms and ammunitions to would be wise enough not to call any hartals. She may be naïve but I Israel and on the other blocking supplies to Palestinians. We all sincerely hope she's right.

> Peter Pan Dhaka

### Family rule

The year was 1973. In the student's body election of Dhaka University the panel led by A.F.M. Mahbubul Haque and Mahmudur Rahman Manna was about to come out victorious. The young Awami/Chatra League Turks then under the leadership of late Sheikh Kamal decided that the election results ought not stand. The rest is history

The year is 2002. The former President Dr. B Choudhury was let go because he was not subservient enough in paying his due respect to late Ziaur Rahman. In this case the young BNP Turks decided that the President ought to go. Of course, the ousting of Dr. Choudhury is part one of an ultra right reactionary grand design.

During the Awami League rule mausoleums had been popping up Bangladeshis. Neither can they sell any story that fingers Prof. Chowdhury as a conspirator. We have known him too long and too well and too closely to lose our faith in him

#### Hasan Rashid Canada \* \* \*

President Badruddoza Chowdhurv had to resign because he didn't of to President Zia's mazar and did not mention Zia's name as the declarer of independence of Bangladesh in his message on Zia's death anniversary. The remaining cause was he was acting neutrally. Former two reasons for which he was forced to resign are not directly related to public affairs as it did not cause any obvious damage to the public. And not mentioning President Zia's name in the presidential message also does not mean that he is denying Zia as the declarer of the liberation war

Lack of BNP's lawmaker's prudence is obvious here, that they didn't even consider public loss or benefit. They only considered and emphasised on facts or concepts that serve party interest. We really do not want such political practices that do not serve people's interest.

#### Md Dulal Hossain DU

\* \* \* The decision of the BNP's parliamentary committee meeting

lawmakers demanded President AQM Badruddoza be "impeached" should write a letter of thanks to the ex-US President Bill Clinton; for if it was not for his infamous episode involving Monica Lewinsky, our politicians would have never known that such a term (impeachment) exists.

Farjad Ahmed Dhaka

### "The post of the President- BNP style'

It is very clear that to the BNP-men it is a severe crime of the President to be neutral. Since Professor Chowdhury was made President by the BNP MPs, as President professor Chowdhury must do everything set out by the BNP leaders not according to the Constitution of the Republic. But unfortunately (!) holding the highest office of the Republic, he wanted to be neutral. So, it is natural for the BNP leaders to be enraged. To pacify the leaders and activists, the BNPPP- a legal body (!) forced him to resign.

These are the leaders who are in grips of the country. To them it is not necessary to know the constitutional definition of the word "impeachment" and "impeachable crimes". They do not need to know the duties and responsibilities of the President defined by the Constitution. The nation needs to be rid of these politicians as early as possi-

### Visa: Jilted by the USA?

Why is hardly anyone receiving the US visa now-a-days? What have the Bangladeshi people done wrong? Is it gas export, Chittagong port, political reforms or just because we are a Muslim country? Does this mean the US government don't trust us anymore and have decided to reject 99 per cent of the visa applications? How can a poor country like Bangladesh can go ahead if they are denied the access to country like USA?

Where are our political leaders? What have they done so far to redress the woe of the visa applicants?

Acitizen Dhaka

Haluaghat

Kashmir

It is up to the voters of Bangladesh, and leaders of public opinion, to decide whether or not the family of the present Prime Minister is of sufficient merit to make this development desirable. Angela MV Robinson

St Andrew's High School,

of Canada, Toronto, 27 October 1949 If the government considers any

ment," Address to the Empire Club

opposition to it as conspiracies then how will parliament function?

#### Thor Dhaka

### Sharon-Bush Mid-East policy

When American leader visited Once again Mr. Bush has proved Islamabad and was asked about how blindly US Government support freedom fighters in Kashmir he Mr. Sharon's philosophy of shutting replied that those who are involved up by fighter jets, tanks and helicopin civilian killings are terrorist no ter gun ships a just and equitable matter whatever their cause is. peace settlement in the Middle East. Correct! Then can this leader The world has observed with astonanswer this question that why VHP ishment Mr. Bush's recent was not banned under the same announcement of dictating Palestincharges? Why were they not named ian people to choose a pro-Sharon as terrorist group involved in killing leader who is willing to accept of innocent Muslim and Christian Sharon dictated peace deal. Finally civilians in India? Why Indian gov-Mr. Bush has given in to pressure by ernment was not termed as Terrorist his Hawkish Vice President and the State who has given all its blessing Defence Secretary who are the

has given Mr. Sharon a green light to continue murdering Palestinian with Kolkata when one of the stewardesses announced first in tanks and helicopter oun ships. Bangla and then in English, the English-speaking lady Israel has invested heavily on the requested me to translate whatever the stewardess was telling US mass media cashing on the us. Because she could not understand a single word. tragic World Trade Center terrorist There were some small children in the flight. Besides from attack to create a very negative

their mothers they needed special attention and care from the cabin crew too. But unfortunately, the crew did not seem aware of such hospitality. When we were leaving Chittagong, I was expecting an announcement apologising for the unintended delay. But alas there was no announcement. How are such crews recruited?

Is there any ground training school of Biman? Who are the trainers? Is it their only duty to ensure that with the change of government the cabin crew would either say Khoda Hafez or Allah Hafez?

Nizamuddin Ahmed Dhaka

tinian people and shift public opinion in their favour. US public is not aware of the extent of Israeli brutality in the occupied territories and the history of how Israel has kicked out millions of Palestinian from their homeland for the last 42 years. By military might USA and Israel can only scare the world but will they ever earn the respect of the world?

impression of the Arabs and Pales-

mouthpiece of the US Zionist lobby.

Mr. Bush's recent announcement

Siraj Talukder Kumar Para, Sylhet

A journey by Biman's boat

