The Paily Star



In the name of history

Reply to Afsan Chowdhury's reply!

This letter refers to the reply of my letter by Mr. Afsan Chowdhury Japan (July 12).

Yes Mr. Chowdhury, you are very much speaking the "truth", and definitely will continue to do so, but my request was to add a little respect while addressing the Freedom Fighters. Your logic was "come and visit Bangladesh and go to the village...." I don't understand why you invite a guy who was born in poor village family and raised there, lived deeply rooted with his only home in a remote village for almost four decades before going abroad!

My answer is: Mr. Chowdhury there is more "truth" in heaven and earth, so please try to tell all "truth" if possible. We really admire your writings despite its share of follies. The 'village people' use so many things/dialects in their vernacular/language, but we seldom follow them in our Bhadrloker written language.

The writers I mentioned--Joan Didion, Tom Wolfe or Hunter Thompson are Journalists/Writers, guite famous for their literary journalism, the style has a striking similarity with that of yours. That's why I mentioned that.

Finally, Mr. Chowdhury, please ask yourself, what's the difference between a party fathered a sepoy and other one what's not, despite all their failings. I know, as a student of history of DU, you can't be a devil's advocate, though you have 'little respect for any political party' as you mentioned in one of your articles. Good luck! Ahmed Hasan New York, USA

When a reader writes something to any newspaper, which is unfavourable to its Editor, he has to account several risks. Because the 'ball' is on the Editor's court, he can write whatever he likes and can publish letters those are benign to him. On the reader's part, if his letter is not published all of the labour he paid in writing goes in vain. This great power imbalance seldom initiates a reader to write something against a newspaper.

I like Afsan Chowdhury's writings, however I do not agree with the way he responded to Ahmed Hasan (July 12). First of all, neither Mr. Hasan wrote that Mr. Chowdhury's article lacks facts or didn't say that Mr. Chowdhury is propping up any groups. When Mr. Chowdhury writes, "I have reported facts...", it does not make any sense to us as each of newspapers like 'Dinkal', 'Ingilab', and

Replacing Principal Hamida Ali!

It is very disappointing to know about the plot to remove the popular Principal of Vigurunnisa School and College.

Hamida Ali has spent 19 years of her life for the betterment of this institution, which is unabatedly one of the best in the country.

How can the government think of removing Hamida Ali when the governing body, teachers, students and guardians all want her to remain as the Principal of this institution?

I request the Education Minister not to be a part of the destruction process of one of the few standard

'Banglar Bani' is saying so. Needless to say, a judge of a writer is his reader not himself. Mr. Chowdhury's admission, '...will continue to do so' clearly beleaguered his readers.

I have no idea in which part of our country 'Freedom Fighters' are called as 'Muktis'. How Mr. Chowdhury was so sure that Mr. Hasan is needed to visit Bangladesh? Most of the persons, who are living abroad and regularly read Bangladeshi newspapers, spent most of their life in Bangladesh. Bangladeshis who were born abroad and never visited Bangladesh have no interest on any Bangladeshi news or articles.

The objective of Mr. Hasan's writing revealed just in one sentence-"Mr. Chowdhury's favourite subject is to castigate Awami League with bitter puns". As a regular reader of Mr. Chowdhury's article I support this saying, but I believe that there is nothing wrong with this. Anyone has the right to choose a side. Besides, AL has such true history. It is a common sense that anatomising only AL rule by a writer will hurt some of his reader.

Ratan, M.B.B.S., Ph.D

TO THE

* * * This is in reference to Mr Ahmed Hasan's letter on Afsan Chowdhury's column (July 12).

Afsan Chowdhury was only presenting the facts when he mentioned the Muktijodhyas as Muktis. The rural people did used to call the Freedom Fighters as Muktis and I find nothing belittling about it when Afsan Chowdhury calls them in that name.

But that's not the point. My point is after 30 years of independence can we claim that we have upheld the spirit of '71? Have we at all showed any respect to the 'Muktis' forget about helping the needy and handicapped who sacrificed so much to liberate our country? I'm not interested about those so-called Freedom Fighters who made a career out of it but of those who are spending their davs in extreme hardship and recalling those days in frustration when they fought the Pakistan Army dreaming for a better day. What does it matter whether we call the Freedom Fighters as 'Muktis' or 'Muktijodhyas' or 'Honourable Muktijodhyas' when we have failed them and their dreams in every possible way?

The truth always sounds bitter doesn't it? Mostafizur Rahman

Mirpur, Dhaka

"A limousine parked at the

graveyard"

totally biased towards the ruling

party. This was surfaced indubitable

found no mistake in my findings.

the parliament and democracy at

Takad Ahmed Chowdhury

Another column from Afsan Chowdhury which hits straight to the heart. He seems to have an uncanny ability and courage to say the most disturbing things in his own way. I felt so miserable reading his piece when I realised that I had spent more than what a street child needs a month only on cigarettes.

But The Daily Star is not read by people who are going to be touched by his kind of writings. It's read by the wealthy or the expatriates who have no link with the people he is talking about. K. Arefeen, Dhaka

to bring fire and thus make quick money and fly away leaving in its wake a land poorer than ever, more wretched than Nigeria Mohamed Abdul Mutalib Faculty, IUBAT Dhanmondi, Dhaka

inferno burning humanity to give gas

What is in store for us next?

So far BNP has done everything possible to alienate as many of the electorate as possible.

Just to mention a few instances they banned and promptly retracted the ban on cable channels. Then came the VAT and PSI on foreign magazines, this was also retracted. The President was ousted and replaced with a yes-man and Tarique Rahman came one step closer to becoming the PM. Again. there was universal anger at this move but to no avail. Not to mention the jumbo cabinet and the perpetually postponed cabinet streamlining and reshuffle.

Lutfuzzaman Babar after a spat with his erstwhile friend the boss of Jamuna Group over the liquor license files a GD against him and set off another furore. Reconditioned cars were banned although most middle-class people, even with the reduced duties, still can't afford new cars. Again this was retracted in the face of pressure. Saifur Rahman also buckled down under pressure from his colleagues and proposed a bloated ADP even though we can't afford it. Now comes the arrest of an AL

MP just when the opposition was warming to Parliament. Adding to that, BNP wants to remove the principal of one of the few good schools left in Dhaka and replace her with one of their own.

Give me a break. BNP has proven to the nation that they are immature, unfit and unwilling to even govern badly. Since AL and BNP are two faces of the same coin and both are at heart undemocratic and authoritarian, why not just keep voting the same party in power? At least we'll be saved from the hartals and other acts of economic terrorism perpetrated by whoever is in the opposition. Kireti Dhaka

Fate of ETV

A good many writers, I feel, have been motivated to canvass for ETV and they are in full swing propaganda, including The Daily Star.

But very funny is the way the people have started writing "ban-ning ETV...", "shutting down...", "consider referendum..." etc. There has been no such final decision as the matter is still the subject of 'Appellate Court'. And even if the decision of the higher court is not in full favour of ETV, it may not go out of business, for it may be considered to run in parallel to the other channels like ATN or Channel I.

Let us all show respect to the law of the land

these fires. First of all, it is common Dorji, Dhaka

knowledge that arrangements can **Mobile menace** be made with the Fire department None of the Mobile Services in and the insurance investigators to Bangladesh works properly due to get the correct reports in order to "overselling" which has resulted in recoup all the money lost and more. over subscription and thus jammed Secondly, how do you differentiate up the systems. May be there's between burnt yarn waste and some collusion to deprive the concompleted garment waste? Acrylic sumers of smooth modes of telefor instance, is petroleum by product communication, landlines or otherand burns with an acrid smell into wise. So, some hapless citizens practically nothing. How do you grope for mobile phones as a substiknow that the finished garments that tute of landline in the sense that

Hoping for the best in Colombo



Testing time in Sri Lanka

EDITOR

The tour of Bangladesh to Sri Lanka starts in a week's time and from now on, people's interest would firmly be fixed on cricket-at least for the first Test Match.

The team must not look at the Sri Lankans in awe because that would make the tour far more difficult. On the other hand, it would be stupid to think that the they would be down and out after their unsuccessful summer in England. Khaled Mashud leads a young side with the veterans Aminul Islam and Akram Khan, although the latter would find it difficult to find a place in the first team due to stiff competition from young Ashraful and Al-Shahriar. The bowling department has a complete new look with Talha Zubair, Alamgir Kabir and Fahim Muntasir. The two quickies are going to make their debuts in Test Match cricket but are highly regarded for their pace and accuracy in the local circuit.

The surprise lies in the top of the order with the technically correct Hannan Sarkar and the consistent, albeit in the Premier League, Ehsanul Haque. They must take this chance to establish their place in the side. Others like Tushar Imran, Tareq Aziz and Ashraful promises a lot. Ashraful will have the reputation in Sri Lanka as the young man who scored that magnificent hundred last year. That eventually got into his head I suppose and he stopped performing. The captaincy would also be under a lot of scrutiny among the experts down in Colombo but the most talked about issue in Dhaka would most probably be Mohsin Kamal.

Luck and good performance might enhance our reputation as a Test team. Luck might come in the form of rain as it pours heavily at this time of the year in Sri Lanka. What if the series ends 0-0? You never know!

then?

office- how can it be called "mobile"

And we now have a "Mobile

Daily Star had once described this

as the most unfortunate group of

mobile phone owners in the world.

of being "full-service" in one way or

Haji Mohammad Isam, Dhaka

the other: "Mobile to Mobile"/"BTTB incoming", "National"/"Zonal", "Pre-Paid"/"Post-Paid", the list goes on and on.

DHAKA MONDAY JULY 15, 2002

Now for the latest-- the leading mobile service provider is putting ads for "Pre-Paid Connection -Handset", but strangely nowhere is the clarification given for the word "Connection" that it actually means "Mobile to Mobile"! Previously they used to make this point clear. So, is this recent omission intentional to misguide the common people into thinking that it is full-ser- vice?

This same company sold limited number of its "regular" (i.e. fullservice) packages a few months ago without mentioning the prices in the official ads. It later became known that these were sold at premium rates for hefty profits and so the price breakdowns were meant to be kept hidden from the official scene! The initials of the leading Mobile Service Provider should actually stand for greatest pickpockets!

ADistressed Observer Chittagong

Former President Chowdhury

Even though I am in London, I have been following events that have previously unfolded in Bangladeshespecially regarding former President Chowdhury. The controversy surrounding his so-called forced resignation allegedly due to pressure from the BNP Young Turks is very unnecessary and uncalled for.

Many people are making a big deal out of it, which is very unfair. The blame of it all rests with the former president himself! If he had desired to be a neutral president. then he should not have in the first place accepted the position! He should have resigned from his party and waited for the entire Bangladesh populace to elect him.

Those who are now criticising the present government for their action are so biased that they don't take the constitution into consideration. They should know that the constitution does not make any provision for a neutral president. Criticisms should be constructive and not as destructive as is being presently done. Why on earth should a party appoint or elect a neutral president is the million-taka question.

The people of Bangladesh can do only one thing at this point in time.... amend the constitution so that every citizen can take part in electing a neutral president! Acitizen

Cruelty of cops

I am deeply shocked to learn the tragic death of an innocent man named Monir Hossain due to police cruelty in Siddhirganj on July 11.

He was buried at a local graveyard without autopsy and without filling any case. Where is the law and how such an incident can go unnoticed in a so-called democratic cou- ntry? There are many incidents of brutality, cruelty and human rights those sets never leave a home or violation by the police in our country, which claimed lives of many innocent citizens. But unfortunately, there are very few incidents where Intercom" through the infamous punishment was meted out to the "Mobile to Mobile" service. The wrongdoers.

The University of Asia Pacific,

Zeus, Unocal and gas

Dhaka

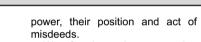
Zeus tricked Pandora into opening when Md. Nasim and Suranjit the box of misery as an act of Sengupta, two leading opposition revenge after Prometheus stole fire MPs took the floor to ask the chair about the fate of a number of notices from the gods. This Greek mytholfor general discussion on different ogy underwrites the Western psychology, especially the multinationimportant issues of national interest als'. They smile to be villains. In their submitted by them. The Speaker, urge to reign supreme they emulate instead of answering their queries switched off their microphones in Zeus. In their ploy to endanger less than five minutes telling that humanity they reflect on Zeus. In the name of women empowerment they they were not abiding by the rules of make Pandoras to bequile On the other hand, he gave floor Prometheuses and distress to the Law Minister and a member of the women on both sides of the

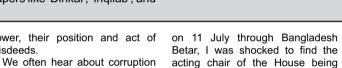
misdeeds.

cases being filed against exministers but never heard of any corruption case being filed against higher government officials. Although (TIB) Transparency International Bangladesh corruption database report reveals that class one officers are the most corrupt lot in the country and 11000 crore taka representing 4.7 per cent GDP got drained through corruption in the last vear.

S Ahmed

Through your esteemed daily we want to request the government to trace these white collar criminal element and prosecute them for the sake of rule of law





procedure.

large

educational institutions of the coun-**Gopal Sengupta** Montreal. Canada

"PM must rid her party of all criminals"

This is in reference to Md. Shoaib's letter "PM must rid her party of all criminals" (June 20). I fully endorse his views that criminal element has been penetrated everywhere in the society. And we the readers want to know who are these criminal element, what are their source of

Parliamentary democracy and role of Speaker

joined the session.

Nawab Salimullah Road, Dhaka

As a citizen of a poor country where democracy has already experienced many setbacks I am curious about our parliament and its day to day proceedings, with more eagerness after the main opposition

Lecturer in English While following the proceedings

Treasury Bench to speak on whatglobe. And ensure a living in plenty ever points they wanted to speak for for those who deceptively represent about twenty-five minutes, when the the people or rhetorically opposition walked out. I was concall themselves servants of the cerned and waited to confirm my people follow-up with the next day's news-

The people who still feel the soul in their body call the multinationals paper reports on the same and monsters of the present age with an instinct of insatiable greed to grab This clear exposure of inclination of wealth, no matter what happens to a the Speaker to his political party is human community, no matter what an ominous sign to the future of his position and above all to happens to the environment.

Unocal has recently posed as the fortune-teller for Bangladesh. It is digging Bangladesh and wants to drag it to India, an ever raging

A F Rahman Dhaka

Sweater fire

the factory claims was burnt weren't

actually just waste yarn? Another Have you noticed that in the last few reason behind unexplained fires months several sweater factories may be delays in competing export have burnt down with no severe orders. It is July now and coming casualties but great loss of materitowards the end of the sweater als? There was another fire in a export season. Whatever is left unsweater factory at Kamrangirchar exported would have to be air where again crores of taka of yarn freighted at the factory's cost. was burnt but fortunately at no loss But an unexplained fire would

oflives take care of that problem wouldn't I have two observations about

Where is the security of natural death? M.S.Uddin

Lots of call-plans and rates are Nagoya, Japan being offered but each falling short

"Ataturk the great!"

It was probably started by Ms Shukla Mirza- a cavalier criticism of Ataturk, Father of the Turkish nation. And then there were other adding on-- for and against. All for no reason at all.

"Judge not, so ye may not be judged", warmed Jesus. Now what if others question us about why we killed two of the best sons of the soil-- the Father of the Nation and the Declarer of Independence? And what if they ask how could we espouse the idea of BAKSAL even in mid-'70s? And how could we in the 21st century countenance a government of the perpetrators of atrocities, by the unrepentant enemies of independence, for the mastans and their godfathers?

Was it a bad thing that Mustafa Kemal Pasha faced up the invaders and turned the tide at Izmir? Would you rather have Anatolia subjugated and embrace the fate of Bosnia and Kosovo? How very ostrich-like to pine for The Khilafat even in 1924!

But we the then Indians did that and expostulated with the British to reinstate the old orders. As if they would turn the clock, if they could! They who already had had a bloody nose at Gallipoli are no friends of the Turks.

Incidentally, who gave the unwholesome sobriquet! Sick Man of Europe' to Turkey? The taunting term "Young Turks' are labelled not in admiration but in derision.

And how is it wrong to streamline the clergy who interfered with the statecraft at every step? More than half of the Khalifas have been dismissed by fatwas, making the state machinery progressively weak until it could no longer hold of its own.

Why would you cry for the deposed dynasty who are banished alive. Turn your eyes across the Black Sea and follow Lenin's hordes to Eketerinaburg and see what they did to Czar Nicholas and his family. Go back a century if you would. Napolean even at Elba was not safe. He had to be sent to St. Helena and poisoned there

Opting for the Roman alphabet was a pragmatic step, which opened the door to Europe and its treasures. The Malaysians took a leaf off the Turkish book and they are not looking back.

Give every man a surname and sense of belonging. Liberate the woman from the veil and give her social and political identity. See the upshot?

"If you judge people, you have no time to love them," said Mother Teresa. I am for loving them and emulating their good points.

Bilou Gaharpur, Dhanmondi, Dhaka



Islam's enemy, Turkey's friend?

Kemal Ataturk was born in 1881 in Thessaloniki, Greece which was at that time a Muslim nation. His full name was Mustafa Kemal and the Ataturk surname, meaning the Father of Turks was given to him by the Turkish people in accordance with the reforms he introduced to destroy the Islamic state and convert it to a "Turkey" state. He was a "doenmeh". Meaning, of Jewish descent. The "doenmehs" never inter-married with Muslims and celebrated their version of Islam indoors. The *doenmehs* were known to be false converts who were planted in the Muslim Empire to destroy it. One must admit that Kemal Ataturk performed his task well.

"His background was military, and he served in various posts in the Ottoman Army. During the World War I, he was the colonel in charge of Infantry at Gallipoli in 1915 and it was his genius defence tactics that prevented the allied forces (British, French, Anzacs -Australians and New Zealenders and Senegalese) from capturing the Dardanelles and eventually Bosphorus." This is what the false historians try to preach. The truth is that the British suddenly and

mysteriously backed out after negotiations with Kemal.

His success and fast growing reputation disturbed the capital and to keep him under control he was promoted to Pasha (General). When the War ended the armies of the allied forces occupied nearly all corners of the country including Istanbul. The allied forces realised that cornering the Muslims like this would prove fatal, as history is a witness to what happens when Muslims are cornered. Thus, instead of marching in and taking the nation for a few months and then running on their heals by the inevitable Muslim Jihad they devised an interesting devious plan.

The plan involved their puppet Kemal Ataturk. He left Istanbul in a small boat, namely Bandirma (a nice model of the boat may be seen at the Ataturk Museum in Ataturk's Mausoleum, Ankara), going ashore at Samsun, a coastal town in the Black Sea, on the 19th of May 1919 (a date later to be presented by Ataturk to the Turkish Youth as the Turkish Youth Day), the day the War of Independence began. He showed the people his desire for Independence. The British thus gave the "oppressed, cornered ready to fight" masses a leader -- their one and only puppet, Kemal Ataturk.

With skirmishes Kemal and his army friends' armies started fighting the enemy. One should wonder how the powerful allied forces suddenly could not fight the friends of Kemal. Ankara was chosen to be headquarter for its central location and the seeds of a new country were planted there. The real agenda was to break up the Khilafah and to leave the Muslims leaderless and thus baffled and in a perpetual state of confusion and "leaderlessness". Thus by the end of the year 1922, all of the powerful invaders had left the country

The Ottoman Sultan was forced to resign and while he was signing his forced resignation, Kemal stood there witnessing it along with a Jew friend (a banker), pictures of which are available in any history book. The birth of a new nation had begun.

Today Turkey has an agreement with Israel and the USA and the West. The "Sick man of Europe" was feared by the entire West. Today the "The healthy man of Europe" is treated with no dignity and holds absolutely no say or position in the world affairs and the Turks still don't get it!

Abdullah

Dhaka

Mr. Akbar Hussain (July 13) fits like a globe into young Farah's audience that she advised to think, question and learn.

Let's educate ourselves about Kemal Pasha and how history evaluates his deeds:

According to Joachim Prinz in his "The Secret Jews", K. Pasha was a descendant of the Jewish Marranos of Salonika in the Asia Minor. Two commandments that the Marranos adhered to were --(1) "Shall not marry into a Muslim family nor maintain any intimate association with them, for they are to us an abomination and particularly their women"

(2) "Shall meticulously adhere to the customs of the Turks so as not to arose their suspicion. I shall not only observe the Fast of Ramadan but all the other Muslim customs which are observed in public". Kemal Pasha followed them and thus earned confidence of his fellow Muslims. He became the Turkish national leader during World War I and liberated his country. Then the real drama began.

According to TIME, 2 July 1928, Kemal Pasha ordered all mosque floors to have their rugs removed and replaced with pews like in the Church so that no Muslim forehead could bow toward Mekka and prostrate on the floor during prayer. He ordered installation of organs and choirs in the mosques. The traditional Fez cap was removed from the Turk's head, shoes were worn during prayer in the mosque. The language of worship was changed from Arabic to Turkish.

In his "The Emergence of Modern Turkey", Bernard Lewis has described how Pasha indoctrinated his own ideas of prayer into Turk life. Any opposition to his reform was meted with prison, gallows and terror. I wonder how Mr. Hussain discovered humanism in Kamal Pasha's "vision of a united humanity".

According to Grey Wolf, in his "Mustafa Kemal, An Intimate Study of a Dictator", Kemal Pasha declared, "Islam, this theology of an immoral Arab, is a dead thing."

He became an ardent drinker and womaniser as historians testify. Mr Hussain, do you still call Ataturk not anti-Islamic?

In today's Europe, Turkey maintains the worst record of human rights violations in imprisoning political opposition, banning religious freedom, ethnically cleansing the Kurds population.

I am at a loss to fathom how people glorify Turkey's place in the modern world. If you have ever lived in Europe and Australia it is certainly not a joy to be a Turkish. I wouldn't be proud to bear the legacy of Kemal Pasha who made Turkey a prisoner of Europe. Once the conqueror of Europe, today's Turkey is begging to be just a part of the European Union. Feroze Alam, Toronto, Canada