

**A cocoon of terror!**

Bomb blast in Sathkira. Three killed, scores injured. Initial suspect Islami Shasahantra Andolon, ISA (29, September).

Remember April 04, 2002, article by Bertil Lintner on Far Eastern Economic Review? We should be aware of these incidents.

However, history shows that destabilizing forces never achieve anything, anywhere.

**Turja**  
Toronto, Canada

**Our true identity**

This is in reference to the letter by Mr. Azad (September 29). In his letter, the writer has reminded us in a bold way our true identity.

It is really frustrating that almost everyone in Bangladesh try to identify himself on the religious line. Nurturing such a principle is in my opinion is one of the staggering examples of our suicidal mentality. It is really sad that as a nation we try to divide ourselves just because we follow different religions.

Being a Bangladeshi, I too like Mr. Azad firmly believe that my identity as a proud Bangladeshi should be given the top most preference and my religious identity in this respect should not be messed up with the national identity, which I hold so dearly. Firstly, I am a Bangladeshi and secondly, I am a Hindu.

**Tridib Jyoti Deb**  
London, UK

**Dring asked to quit country**

I am shocked to see the news "Dring asked to quit Country in a week" (September 26).

Apart from his contribution during our War of Independence, Mr Dring's contribution towards ETV is known to all. Most of the creations in ETV were his brainchild. And we are recognising this great friend of ours by asking him to quit the country!

I know the government won't pay any heed to my request but as a conscious citizen of the country I feel that we are losing a talent and also some extraordinary services from Mr. Dring. This order to leave the country won't affect Mr Dring too much. He will make his place some-where else. But what about our loss? I, on behalf of many others, apologise to him and would like to tell him that there are many people who recognise his contribution and have respect and love for him. May be they are the silent majority but their number is not too small.

**Dr. Ashoke K Roy**  
Shahid, Dhaka

**Gulshid Minar**

Thank you for your timely editorial on Shahid Minar. I would like to repeat a few things that you have written to attract the attention of our fellow countrymen.

The freedom of expression is not a luxury. Suppression of this freedom may cause violence. The government should not try to cover up its administrative failure by suppressing the freedom of expression. The government will take a great risk if they do so.

Shahid Minar is the symbol of existence of our nation. The Pakistan Government tried to destroy it several times. The result is known to all of us.

I think the government is shooting in its own feet. The opposition will get popular support if they demand to lift the siege from the Shahid Minar.

**Waheed Nabi**  
Sheffield, England

**Protest on Dr. Aftab's killing**

Bangladesh Medical Association of North America (BMANA) strongly protest the killing of Professor Aftab Hussain of Sylhet Osmany Medical College.

Professor Aftab Hussain a very respected teacher, an excellent physician, a good administrator, an ex-General secretary of BMA Sylhet branch, a wonderful and humble human being, a loving family man,

who was killed while he had responded to a call of duty. He thought he is going to a home of an ailing patient who needed his medical assistance, instead he was brutally murdered.

It takes a long time to create a talented man like late Professor Aftab Hussain who is loved by every body who ever came in contact with him. It is a great loss not only for the family members but also for the community and for the whole nation.

We urge the PM to take personal interest in this case to show respect to the physician community and assure the government's full commitment against crime and atrocities in Bangladesh.

**Ziauddin Ahmed, Waled Choudhury,**  
Bangladesh Medical Association of North America

**National issues**

For three days in a row the Letters Page editor had urged the readers in a Notice to send "comments" on "USA and world politics" (9/11 and aftermath ... US on Iraq, etc.). I fail to understand-- why? What

**Simi case verdict**

I was shocked and dismayed by the verdict of Simi suicide case. Where in the earth are we living? Only a one-year jail for such evil provocation to force an innocent to suicide? Have we all lost the simple sense of discrimination between what is good and what is bad?

Aren't we ALL responsible for Simi's unnatural demise? Shouldn't we make our voice heard to the judge who gave out the verdict?

**A Man in Uniform**  
Dhaka

In the back page of your paper (September 29), there's an article about how BNP and their allies are going to celebrate their first anniversary.

Right next to that is the report in the Simi suicide case, where the convicts got off pretty easy and the family are now threatened. And next to that, another BNP activist rapes and murders another woman. To make it even more disgusting, the woman was pregnant as a

result of an earlier rape by the same BNP activist, at the time of death.

I would be parroting an earlier letter by ES by again asking our learned retired civil servants, UN officials and former ambassadors to restrain themselves on their ceaseless criticism of the US attempts to oust Saddam Hussein.

Instead why don't you well

mean people write about BNP's activities? Who cares if Bush kills Saddam, BNP activists raping women and Islamic fundamentalists bombing cinema halls are a bit more relevant, aren't they?

**MA**  
Dhaka



A small dose of justice

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**MA**  
Dhaka

**Why doesn't any one say anything?**

I have gone through the column of Mr. M. B. Naqvi with mixed feelings of pain and despair. Every nation in the world will unanimously but mutely agree that it is the US that must be held responsible for the brutality and inhumanity that Israeli armed forces daily visit upon the defeated, occupied and innocent Palestinians. That nothing is wrong in the judgement of the US to pursue

its political whims rather it is always right what it wills to control global politics is well-known to the rest part of the world.

The problem is no nation in the world can utter this hard fact lest that be traced in the standard balance of Mr. Bush as a rogue state. The US launched a war in Afghanistan only on the suspicion that Osama bin Laden, suspected to be in connection with 9/11 is hiding there. The US can attack a country only on suspicion and needs no solid proof. When a distressed suicide bomber gets killed and kills Israeli people, it is termed as terrorist activity but when Israeli forces equipped with modern arms bulldoze Palestinian houses and kill innocent people regardless of women and children the US says that they have the right to protect themselves.

It is suspected that Iraq possesses WMD, which is the matter of grave concern for the USA. While the neighbours of Iraq never feel threat of Iraqi WMD, the US feels it so acutely. And that is why Mr. Bush is hell-bent to launch a war against Saddam to pull him down from power and set another person according to his will in the place of Saddam. But there is no nation in the world to ask why does the US feel threatened at Iraqi WMD? Or while Iraqi people do not think of regime change, why is Mr. Bush so mad for regime change?

**Islam**  
Tangail

**"American way of life"**

and lasting definitions for a child is even harder.

A citizen  
Dhaka

I refer to Professor Ayesha Sultana's "Terrorist defined" (September 28, 2002) and "A Man in Uniform's" letter on the same subject (September 25).

Let us not confuse ourselves with the true meaning of the word "terrorism". The words terrorist and freedom fighter are not synonymous. It is true that often in history "freedom fighters" have been blamed by the subjugators "terrorists" because of the bad connotations inherent in that word.

During our liberation struggle the freedom fighters were described as "miscreants" and "terrorists" by the Pakistani Junta. In the contemporary world Palestinians fighting for statehood have been termed as terrorists by some western media and Zionist leadership of Israel.

Terrorism may be motivated by political, religious, or ideological objectives and may (or may not) have legitimate basis. In order to understand terrorism in the political context we have to understand the history of war, peace and revolution. We also have to understand how the societal changes occur.

In our time, terrorism is method, a tactics, used by some extremists to achieve some immediate goals. We have seen various governments in different countries have used extra-judicial terroristic tactics to stymie or eliminate the opponents. We have seen groups with legitimate causes have resorted to terrorism to address their objectives.

Terrorism is the calculated use of indiscriminate violence or the

It is absolutely appalling to see, that the Immigrant can only "hope" for Israel to voluntarily comply with the UN resolution, whilst it is carrying out daily acts of state terrorism. Simultaneously he argues for compelling Iraq to obey the UN resolutions. This also implies that the blood of the innocent in Palestine and Iraq is expendable, in pursuance of US foreign policy objectives. Such views not only indicate the overt hypocrisy but also the lack of basic human compassion. Israel has been in breach of UN resolutions for the last 50 years and it is only fair to expect, the resolutions to be implemented chronologically. International laws to be qualified as "International Laws", it has to be applied internationally and not selectively!

As for the UN inspectors, one should take the viewpoint from all parties involved. Many independent observers, eminent journalists, and ex-UN inspectors like Scott Ritter, clearly stated, UN inspectors were being used for espionage and to further the US agenda.

In addition there are no UN resolution for the no fly zone imposed over Iraq. Hence it is Iraq that has been playing the role of the "mouse" and whilst the "world" (presumably the Immigrant means US) has been playing the role of the cat. As for "Frank Coffman's" letter, the US actually vetoed the UN resolution, which condemned Iraq for the using chemical weapons against the Kurds. Also the recent Senate reports show, US continued to supply such materials for profit, after the event of Halabja.

Therefore, actions speak louder than words. US is guilty as a partner in crime with the Iraqi and the Israeli regime. As for the CIA's role, torture, executions, arbitrary imprisonment, is well known. The world got an actual glimpse after the massacres of Mazar-e-Sherif, Jenin, and Sabra-Shatila.

**Yamin Zakaria**  
UK, London

**Middle East, Vietnam War and the US**

It seems that the American government's policy towards ME (Middle East) after September 11, has become more desperate, more confusing and sometimes illogical. We miss the good sense prevailed during the tenure of President Carter, Reagan, and Clinton.

The way the Arabs are being trampled under the Israeli tanks would in no way contribute to world peace. We have seen how effectively the Americans have brought peace in many troubled regions in the world. Even they did not hesitate to bomb the Christian soldiers in Bosnia where the Muslims were the most sufferers. Then what is wrong with the American foreign policy after September 11? All the Muslims did not take part in the Twin Tower destruction. Islam does not defend suicide bombs and terrorism. We have to have an International Cell to study why terrorism is born and how it can be faced.

In this regard I remember an international body IVS (International Voluntary Service) in Vietnam in early 70's. IVS found that the small international element of its Vietnam team contributed significantly to the effectiveness of the whole programme not only because people from other countries brought with them valuable skills in tropical agriculture and community development, but also because they enabled the Vietnamese to see IVS as a group of individuals without any vested political interests. There is no reason why an international peace corps (Americans, Europeans, Asians, Africans) could not be formed, giving young peace loving citizens of all the world an opportunity to serve their fellow men in the ME in non partisan and united development efforts.

For in the final analysis, the lesson of Vietnam is that "American enemy is not a man; if they kill the man, with whom do they live? Their enemy is inside each one of them." This enemy must be destroyed for a stable, peaceful solution of ME crisis.

**Nur Jahan**  
Chittagong

**Fuel-less electricity generator?**

A huge front-page advertisement on



The enigma of definition

threat of violence to incultate fear intended to coerce or to intimidate governments, societies or individuals in the pursuit of goals that could be legitimate or illegitimate. The essence of "terrorism" is to generate fear (often through violence) and compel a change in behaviour of the opponent against whom terrorism is used.

**Samir Ahmed Khan**  
Student, Political Science Department, DU

**Kamal Uddin Ahmed**  
On e-mail

**Iraq's Weapons of Mass Destruction**

The 55-page report "Iraq's Weapons of Mass Destruction-- The Assessment of the British Government" is nothing more than a publicity stunt orchestrated in an attempt to salvage public opinion regarding military action against Iraq.

If the proposed action against Iraq is truly about 'Weapons of Mass Destruction' then why doesn't the British government produce a dossier on America's Weapons of Mass Destruction-- a country that has actually used them on civilians?

Why don't they prepare a dossier on the Weapons of Mass Destruction developed by the Israeli state or India who continue to massacre the Muslims every day?

It is the greatest act of political naiveté to expect the Western Capitalist States to end their injustice and oppression, for these qualities are inherent in each and every Capitalist state.

The UN, Arab League, OIC and all international organisations are mere tools in the hands of the colonial powers. Seeking solutions that stem from these organisations further entrenches colonialism in the world.

Furthermore, the Muslims must reject these solutions for they contradict the Islamic ideology. Islam prohibits the acceptance of Western solutions, whether by lobbying MPs, seeking assistance from the colonialists or calling for Capitalism directly.

**London**  
Dhaka, UK

**USA on Middle East**

After the fall of Soviet Union, USA is to be considered the lone super power of the world and USA has become more or less desperate to show its power regardless of caste and creed. Its foreign policy regarding Middle East is questionable.

During the Russian occupation in Afghanistan it has blatantly supported the Mujahidden against Russia. But now they are treating the Taliban as Muslim fundamentalists. It is well known that Osama Bin Laden started his career as a freedom fighter against the Russian occupation in Afghanistan and the CIA actively sponsored him. Similarly America has supported Iraq at the time of Iraq-Iran War deeming Iran their foe. Now Iraqi President Saddam has turned out to be a terrorist in the eyes of the USA. While Iraq is being punished for violation of UN resolution, Israel is allowed to flout many UN council resolutions and USA is supporting the Israeli activities! Besides, Israel is receiving a huge amount of military aids from the USA government and they are aggressively using these weapons against innocent Palestinian. Why this double-standard?

**M.H. Bari**  
Khulna

**Save Iraq from US aggression**

Probably the proposal of weapon inspection is a sham and America will attack Iraq in any way. We are upset and frightened by the prospect.

America is blaming that Iraq possess weapons of mass destruction but there are many countries which posses such weapons and America is topping the list.

Has America forgotten that in World War II, it had dropped nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki which killed about 1,40,000 people, injured innumerable number of people and its aftermath was devastating from which people suffered for many years.

We have seen enough wars and we do not want to see another one.

**Nur Jahan**  
Chittagong

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**BUET's 'meritorious' students**



The merit of agitation!

This is in reference to the news report that the agitating students of BUET are meritorious students. If this information is related to their SSC and HSC results then it is okay. However, their performance in BUET hardly merits this distinction of being 'meritorious'. For example,

Md. Anupam Saikat, who is probably the General Secretary of BUET Samajtantrik Chaatra Front, stood first in the HSC examination under Rajshahi Board and sixth in the SSC examination. His grade point average in the very prestigious Electrical Department should be at least 3.75 out of four. And while he was a first year student his score was like that but (because of his involvement in student politics!) today it stands as only 2.81 which is a second class grade point average. This is indeed a big loss for the nation.

Then again, Bijoy Sankar Talukdar (who is leading the recent political agitation), Anindya Pandit (President, BUET B'Desh Chaatra Union) and Subrata Sarkar (Chaatra Front) all these 'meritorious' students have failed in 4-5 subjects in each of the last four terms out of six subjects that they registered. These are failed students and the press is calling them meritorious!

**Sumana and Pappu**  
BUET

the 25th September issue of *The Daily Star* caught my attention. The advertiser appealed to the Honourable Prime Minister to take verification measures for a new "fuel-less pollution free electricity generation technology" claimed to have been invented by an Engineer named Mr. Nazmul Huda and to help in taking up the case for international patenting.

Engr. Huda definitely needs commendation for his work, particularly for the battery less radio, which he patented in 1975 (According to a feature published in Prothom Alo). However, I have certain reservations regarding his latest invention for which the appeal was made. First I have a question to the advertiser and to the inventor. Already a fortune has been spent in giving these advertisements, and the Prime Minister is being asked to intervene. Why did not the advertiser or the inventor himself consider meeting Physicists at any of the universities of the country first for a verification of the concept, which I am sure, would have cost nothing? I understand Engr. Huda has already applied for a patent locally and had spoken about it in a press conference (according to the Prothom Alo feature), so there is no chance that anybody else in the country can 'steal' his invention now. He is welcome to contact me or any of our colleagues at the Department of Physics, University of Dhaka.

Now about the invention itself, one should know that a fundamental law in Physics states that energy cannot be created, it can only be converted from one form to another, except of course in a nuclear reaction where mass can also be converted to energy. However, this mass conversion needs a nuclear reactor or an atom bomb and obviously does not arise in the invention that Engr. Huda seems to claim.

In the battery-less radio which Engr. Nazmul Huda invented earlier, the energy comes from a person's muscles when he/she turns a clock-work mechanism to store energy in a coiled spring, which in turn drives an electrical generator. Here electricity to drive the radio does not come from 'nought' as has been wrongly implied in the said feature. Therefore building an electrical generator which does not need any energy input is an impossibility. I am not clear about the working of Engr. Huda's new invention, but from whatever little description is available from the above mentioned feature, what I gather is that once a push is given to a mass of water in a container arranged in a special way it will continue to drive a generator till eternity and will provide us with electricity for ever. I may be wrong in guessing the mechanism, but if it is so, it falls into the same category of impossible machines. I do not want to discourage the creative genius of Engr. Huda, but before he places the new invention before the nation, I would ask him to verify the basics himself, or to talk to one of us. If he is putting in energy of an amount equal or more than the output, it may be ok, otherwise the whole thing crumbles down to nothing.

Almost every criminal in Bangladesh has a political tag mark on them. He is invariably connected with one or the other major political parties of the country. If the notorious criminals get political shelter then how would the police be able to improve the law and order situation?

**Faruque Hasan**  
Dhanmandi, Dhaka

**No positive news!**

Your weekly page on Chittagong always gives negative news. Depicts the Port City as a city of problems, lawlessness, inefficiencies etc. It is just the one side of the story, but I want to know the other side too-- the positive sides. Isn't there anything good in Chittagong?

**Naem Ahmad**  
Old DOHS, Dhaka

**Notice**

The readers are requested to send their comments on 'Bangladesh cricket' (the cricket team, their performance in the ICC tournament and other international tournaments--how to improve their performance, what future they have, the government's role in improving the cricket standard etc).

-- Editor

**"Terrorist defined"**

I sympathise with the "Man in Uniform" (September 25) who is at a loss to define terrorism to his "nagging daughter".

After September 11 incident, many diplomats and wise men in governments have groped with how to define terrorism. It used to be understood as use of force to get political, religious, or sectarian objectives. The victims are not necessarily those who are "enemies" but are often innocent persons; the idea being to cause fear and awe to draw attention to the cause. As to fight for freedom from occupation and injustice, the UN charter allows that struggle and supports it world wide. Unfortunately however, that is coming under stress and challenge. That is because terrorism and counter terrorism are now in transition; it has now acquired an entirely new definition mainly to legitimise unilateral actions far from territorial jurisdiction including invasion of sovereign countries who allegedly harbour or are accused of tolerating the presence of "terrorist". That would qualify many states including the chief constable of the world. But would you dare?

Another interesting turn is real politick of terrorism. The big powers are accommodating each other in a way that is convenient in their use of questionable methods including ignoring human rights and flouting established conventions. It's like if you let me do it my way, I turn my eyes away from what you do. Think of Chechnya and Iraq.

Indeed, it is an "interesting" time in history and affairs of nations and peoples of this world of ours, which to say the least is in deep turmoil. Many are and will be confused if not confounded at the turn of events they will be obliged to suffer or witness in silence. Mr. "Man in Uniform" is not alone; it is a pity that he cannot be offered any simple answer but in these times even trying to understand the logic or illogic of things is difficult enough; to find easy

and lastng definitions for a child is even harder.

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Terrorism is the calculated use of indiscriminate violence or the